



ANCIENT STRENGTHENING TECHNIQUE

BOOK 01

I Am Superfluous

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

Ancient Strengthening Technique

(심판의 군주)

by

I Am Superfluous

(我是多余人)

Synopsis

A human warrior cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique has transcended dimensions and arrived on Kyushu.

Together with twelve ravishing beauties with looks that were unmatched in their generation,

will he be able to stand on the summit of this world?

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AST: Chapter 1 – Qing Clan, Qing Shui

This is a small village surrounded by hills and mountains, the scenery is breathtaking. The village's surroundings is filled with the abundance of flora and fauna. Even the quality of the air here is fragrant beyond comparison.

Sitting atop of a hillside, was a little boy, roughly about five years old. The little boy was frail and weak, with a very thin physique. Currently the little boy was in a daze. If anyone was to look at the little boy at this moment, they would be flabbergasted! He could be considered considerably good looking, with that delicate small face and a pair of beautiful black eyes, but in this instance, the sorrowful expression in his eyes was not fitting for his age. It was a look that no ordinary five years old should be able to emulate.

“It has been five years.. Why did I appear in this world? This world and my original world are drastically different, I’m even unsure of what era of history this place belongs to, the only thing I know is that this continent is called Kyushuu.

“Everyone in my current family has the capability to practice martial arts. Why is it that I am a useless trash that is unable to cultivate?” Qing Shui mumbled. The moment there were any hints of strenuous exercise, he would get exhausted, have to gasp for air, palpitations in his heart and even fall unconscious!

“I was originally playing Western Fantasy [1] with my classmates. How on earth did I suddenly end up in this world!?”

“Qing shui! Qing Shui!” The voice of a woman sounded. Upon hearing it, Qing Shui gradually recovered from his melancholy and

regained the bright-eyed naive look of a 5 year old child.

“Mum, I am here!” After he said that he waved his hands and quickly ran towards a woman who exuded a charm that was distinctively different from any ordinary village women.

“Child, why did you travel so far to play? If you want to go that far in the future, let me accompany you, alright?” Holding his hands, the woman smiled with a tender look in her eyes as she gently berated Qing Shui.

Qing Shui felt warmth in his heart. When he came to this world, he was still a fetus developing inside the woman’s body. Now that five years had passed, Qing Shui was uncertain of the exact reason, but he no longer thought of things as before. He knows that this woman really feels affection for him, other people treats him as trash, but she’s the only one in this world that treats him like a treasure!

Since his birth, Qing Shui had not seen his father. From infancy till now, it had always been this gentle and graceful woman before him that was responsible for his upbringing.

As a result, Qing Shui followed the surname of his mother. His mother is named Qing Yi, belonging to the Qing Clan. The Qing Clan in the Qing village, in this remote region, was considered the absolute authority. The Qing Clan was the most influential family within a 100 li radius because of their connections, as well as their secret family martial arts techniques that were passed down generation after generation. The Qing Clan could be considered as the only family that could rival the top three great families in

Hundred Miles City!

As a result, in this remote region, no one could afford to make an enemy out of the Qing Clan. Qing Shui knew all of this because, in these five years, while the other kids in the family practiced martial arts, Qing Shui was the exception. Therefore, he had plenty of free time on his hand and thus, paid more attention to the information flowing around.

Even the commoner kids would practice some form of inferior martial arts. Even in his past life, Qing Shui also had the mentality and wish to become a top-tier expert that possessed heaven shaking and earth shattering strength, able to sweep humanity off its feet.

The chance had finally come, he was reincarnated into a different world. However, he turned out to be a trash that could not cultivate! As he thought of this, he covertly glanced at the beautiful lady by his side. Qing Yi was also gazing at Qing Shui compassionately but there were hints of doting, hope, and a sense of unfairness for Qing Shui in her eyes...

As he glanced at the hope in her eyes, Qing Shui lowered his head. He was afraid that Qing Yi would be disappointed. All parents in this world would want their child to achieve something outstanding in life, it goes without saying, no parents would ever want their child to be a trash! However, looking at the current circumstances, Qing Shui was afraid that he would have no choice but to disappoint his mother.

In the last five years, the one that fed and clothed him was this

woman. This woman whom which he calls mother, Qing Shui was very afraid that she would one day leave his side.

“Qing Shui, are you hungry? Even if you go out to play, you still have to remember to eat your meals!” This woman had always been intellectual and caring, possessing a demeanour akin to an angel. This made Qing Shui feel that his mother was not ordinary, initially he thought that people respected her because she is the daughter of the Qing Clan’s grandmaster, but it seems that this was not the case.

“Mother, am I useless? Other children can practice martial arts, but I am unable to.. Will you eventually become the same as them and think of me as trash?” Qing Shui whispered, his expression somewhat holding back tears.

Qing Yi felt her heart shuddered with pain, the weight of her hope was pinned onto this child’s shoulder. However, this child was unable to cultivate, her hope was destined to be extinguished. One cannot have everything they want in life. Forget about Qing Shui accomplishing anything outstanding, as long as he can live a carefree and happy life, she would be extremely satisfied!

“Shui’er, no matter what, you will always be close to my heart. No matter what, I will always love you, you will always be my pride and joy, in my heart you will always be the most excellent and outstanding person, only when you are happy Will I be happy!” Qing Yi chastely kissed his cheeks.

Such heartwarming and affectionate actions were quite common between them, Qing Shui was quite used to it. He felt extremely

blessed, no matter what, there is still someone who love him. With regards to those who calls him trash or looks down on him with contempt, what does that matter? He just could not help but feel sorry that he had not met Qing Yi's expectations.

Qing Clan was located at the most northern site of the Qing Village. Over there, everywhere within a radius of about 10 Li [3] was all populated by the Qing Clan main and branch families. Currently the clan master of the Qing Clan, Qing Luo was already a hundred years old, but due to him being at the peak of Houtian Stage, he still looked like a middle aged man. Humans at the peak of Houtian Stage had a life expectancy of two hundred years, as compared to normal humans who only had a life expectancy of a hundred and thirty years.

Qing Yi is the youngest daughter of the Qing Clan's clan master. The clan master had a total of four sons, and a single daughter. Qing Yi was the only daughter, not only that, she was also the youngest child. Needless to say, she was the apple of his eyes. The Qing Clan, currently collectively had about twenty plus grand children, one could say that Qing Luo was very contented. He would always smile genuinely from his heart even when he interacted with Qing Shui. There were countless talented geniuses within the two later generations, so even if there was an addition of one more genius, or one more trash, it didn't really matter much in his eyes. Furthermore, Qing Shui was the son of his precious daughter Qing Yi, even if he could not cultivate, as long as he could peacefully live out his life, Qing Yi would also feel reassured. And as such, Qing Luo was very protective of Qing Shui.

Located within the Qing Clan, there was an enormous courtyard. This courtyard an extremely important place in the Qing Clan. As

both Qing Yi and Qing Shui entered, they could see the grandsons and grand daughters of the Qing clan boisterously practice their martial arts, everyone of them was akin to a ferocious tiger cub!

Qing Yi could see the sadness in Qing Shui's eyes so she silently sighed. This child at such a young age, had such a unyielding personality that seeks strength, it may be a curse instead of a blessing..

She gently guided Qing Shui into her embrace, unwilling to let him see the children that were currently practising martial arts!

But all her actions were futile, because at this moment, sounds of ridicule and contemptible laughter targeted at Qing Shui rang out. This sensation was even worst than being directly called trash!

AST: Chapter 2 – Three Years Later

Time flowed by, like an arrow shooting speedily across eternity, akin to a white steed flying across a gap. Even though Qing Shui had grown taller, he still looked delicate and scrawny. His only saving grace was his pair of beautiful black eyes which seemed to have become even more charming with the passage of time. To Qing Shui, the passing of time was not very advantageous. He was still unable to cultivate any martial arts!

“Qing Shui! Qing Shui!” A youth with a robust build comparable to a tiger ran over, shouting for Qing Shui.

Whenever he had spare time, Qing Shui usually chose to jog on the nearby hills and mountains. He loves the quiet solitude of the open hills, being out with nature calms him down and helps him to temporarily release the burden in his heart, making him become less irritated. As he grew older, the frequency of which he jogs gradually increased with time.

Qing Shui turned his head and saw that the person calling him was actually his closest friend, Qing Hu!

Qing Hu was younger than Qing Shui by a year. He had already managed to master the Qing Clan’s hereditary martial skill “Blue Lotus Art” to the 3rd grade of Martial Warrior.

Cultivation in this world could be broken down into 10 realms. These 10 realms are: Martial Student, Martial Warrior, Martial General, Martial Commander, Xian Tian, Martial King, Martial

Saint, Martial Emperor and False God. Each of these realms further consisted of 10 grades.

Qing Hu was the youngest grandson of the Qing Clan, there were 3 other grand children the same age as him. It could be said that during the year he was born, the Qing Clan had been blessed with a total of 4 grandchildren.

There were many members of the same generation as Qing Shui in the Qing Clan who despise him, this was a world where cultivation was everything. For someone who was destined to be unable to cultivate, that person could only be considered trash and held in contempt by everyone. The only true friend he had was Qing Hu!

The moment he stepped into this world, because of his lack of cultivation talent, it was already determined that Qing Shui would be lonely and forsaken by others.

Qing Shui had lived for a total of 26 years. 18 years in his previous world and 8 years in this world. Thus, his mentality was a lot stronger than a normal child's, he did not cry out nor feel abandoned despite his loneliness. In spite of all of the bullying, there was basically no one who had ever seen him cry or throwing a tantrum!

Qing Shui was also reluctant to squabble with the stinking brats because of such insignificant matters. He had no patience for them. Despite the increasing amount of cold stares and sarcastic remarks floating his way, he was unconcerned. However, he really treasured his friendship with Qing Hu. Despite the fact that Qing

Hu was a little kid compared to him, he was still really happy to have made a true friend in Qing Hu.

The Qing Clan's grand master, Qing Luo's cultivation was at the peak of the Hou Tian Realm. Out of his 4 sons, 3 had already reached the level of a Martial Commander, 8th Grade. Some were at the peak of the 8th stage and some were not.

The only exception was the 2nd son, Qing He. Qing He had already reached the level of a Martial Commander, 9th Grade! However, no matter how much he tried, he was still unable to breakthrough into the peak of the Hou Tian Realm [1].

Now, Qing He needed to fully concentrate on his cultivation, hoping to make a breakthrough and enter the level of Martial Commander 10th Stage, reaching the peak of the Hou Tian realm. Only when there are 2 peak Hou Tian stage experts within the Qing Clan, will they be able to clash directly with the Shi Family from Hundred Miles City!

Within the 3rd generation, there are also quite a few geniuses. Because of Qing Luo's personal nurturing, the eldest grandson, Qing Zi, had already broken through to Martial Warrior, 7th Grade at the age of 21!

Another outstanding genius, by the name of Qing You, actually broke through to the realm of Martial Warrior, 6th Stage at the age of 13. This cultivation speed was even 2 years faster than Qing Zi. This made Qing Luo extremely elated, to the point where he was even smiling in his sleep. The meaning behind reaching the same stage with a 2 year difference was extremely clear. Qing You could

be compared to those heavenly-defying geniuses, a genius among geniuses! Qing Luo had tremendous faith and huge expectations regarding this grandson of his.

In this world, where cultivation was everything, the topics of discussion between people naturally revolved around cultivation. This word “cultivation” was the bane of Qing Shui. He detested everything that had to do with it. And so, whenever he was neither sleeping nor eating, he would jog in the hills and mountains alone, basking in the great solitude of nature.

As time passed, his personality became colder and colder, Qing Yi was the only one who had the capability to coax out a smile from him. Even Qing Luo was unable to thaw his frosty countenance.

Qing Shui doesn't know that each time Qing Yi saw his lonesome figure, she would feel stabs of pain in her heart. During the past 3 years, Qing Yi had accumulated countless precious medicinal herbs for Qing Shui, to try and help him improve his constitution, but it was all for nought.. The frosty expression on his face would thaw during the times when he was asleep, only when he was having a good dream would he be able to truly smile in his heart.

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“Hey Qing Hu, why are you sneaking out to play instead of cultivating? Are you not afraid of your Father punishing you by hitting your buttocks?” Qing Shui intense visage loosened up and he broke into a slight smile as he joked with Qing Hu.

“No problem, it’s not painful at all, nothing to be scared of!” Qing Hu brushed it off lightly. Qing Shui felt that the way Qing Hu replied was very adorable, as if he was pretending to be an adult.

“Alright, let’s go back now! If not, Aunt Yi will come and catch you again.” Qing Hu said in a commanding tone as he opened his eyes wide!

Qing Shui softly sighed as he glanced at Qing Hu’s strong, robust body, comparing it to his own frail and delicate one. “Do I have to live like this, being unable to cultivate for the rest of my life? Why are there so many stories of legendary characters transcending dimensions, becoming world-shaking experts, but I’m the only exception?” Qing Yu lamented in exasperation.

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Qing Shui and Qing Hu arrived back at the mansion just when Qing Yi was about to go out and look for them. Upon seeing them, Qing Yi hurriedly ushered them into the dining hall for the reunion dinner. Today was the last day of the month. During the last day of every month, the Qing Clan would hold a reunion dinner where the whole family eats together. This way, there would be a place for family members to exchange news as well as it being a time for family bonding.

Seated at the main table, alongside Qing Luo was Qing He, Qing Zi and Qing You. The other remaining members of the second and third generations were not privileged enough to be seated at the main table along with the geniuses of the Qing Clan.

Despite Qing Zi and Qing You being in the third generation, they were able to dine at the main table because of their strength and talent. This sitting arrangement was arranged by none other than Qing Luo. He wanted to nurture the rest of the clan members by creating an atmosphere of friendly competitiveness. Being seated at the main table was a position of honour. It was something that everyone regarded like a badge of glory. Not only that, the allowance of those seated at the main table was also much higher compared to the rest of the clan members!

Qing Shui silently finished eating at Qing Yi's side, the other clan members of similar strengths would usually congregate together with the exception of Qing Shui. Ever since he was young, Qing Shui had always been alone. As a mother, seeing her child bereft of friends and companionship, Qing Yi felt really helpless!

Qing Yi had always suppressed her emotions deep in her heart. 3 years.. In these 3 years, it seemed that his demeanor had completely changed. In the past, there would still be moments where Qing Shui occasionally exhibited his childish side. Now, Qing Shui seemed to have aged prematurely in both his personality and mentality, losing his childhood in the process. As Qing Yi look at the lonesome figure of her beloved son, tears would involuntarily flow down her face.

She had broken down and wept tears of helplessness countless times in the past 3 years!

AST: Chapter 3 – Body Transformation!

Qing Shui dejectedly walked out of the Qing Mansion. Other than going to the nearby hills and mountains, he had no other place to go. Coming to this place, a place where he had visited countless times before, he looked towards the horizons, over the peaks of endless mountains and deep valleys, thoughts of suicide crossing his mind. However, every time he thought of suicide, memories of a woman filled with gentleness and hope would appear in his thoughts. He told himself that no matter what, he must persevere and live on. For the sake of that hope-filled gaze which belonged to his mother!

Qing Shui was unwilling to remain as a trash like this. The more he thought about it, the more anger he felt. When the anger inside of him bottled up to the point of eruption, traces of madness appeared in his eyes and he roared at the heavens. “Shitty heavens, I will never give up! If you want to suppress me, I, SHALL, SUPPRESS, YOU!” A voice filled with a thousand ounces of unhappiness echoed far and wide.

After yelling, Qing Shui deliriously chose a path up the mountain and began to sprint upwards. He wanted to vent all of his negative emotions, such as the dissatisfaction and anger he felt by exhausting his energy. He felt that he might explode if there was no outlet for release.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Only sprinting a short distance actually made him emphysematous and starting to feel tightness in his chest; Qing Shui gritted his teeth, ignored his body reactions and continued sprinting onwards.

Aches in his body, coupled with the difficulty in breathing resulted in rivulets of sweat, akin to the flow of a small stream cascading down his face. This actually stimulated his will to persist.

“I will not admit defeat, I have to be stronger, I must endure.....” Qing Shui was already delirious as he haphazardly ran around for an unknown amount of time. He ran and ran and ran, to the point where he was no longer fully conscious. And finally, darkness claimed him.

Time passed slowly by, the skies had already turned dark as the moon rose to its acme. Cascading downwards was beams of silvery light, looking as gentle as an angel descending from the heavens, casting their shine onto Qing Shui. Qing Shui was still unconscious, his delicate body looked tiny and pitiful where he had fainted, halfway up the mountain pass.

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Back in the Qing Clan, Qing Yi was in a fluster as she realised that Qing Shui was missing. She immediately went to the nearby hills Qing Shui frequented in an attempt to search for him. However, there were no traces to be found. Unwilling to give up, she persisted on to no avail.

Qing Yi returned to the Qing Clan in a panic and hurriedly ordered all of the servants and slaves to join in the search for Qing Shui. Everyone became terrified as they witnessed an insane

looking Qing Yi display her power. Only now did they remember that she was actually an expert, her previous graceful and gentle demeanor had completely disappeared as she searched for Qing Shui.

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At the moment right before Qing Shui fainted due to over exhaustion, there was an endless rush of knowledge and information gushing into his mind. It was as if a hidden door had been forced open.

Strengthening Techniques, Meditation Techniques, Alchemy, Smithing Skills, Hidden Weapon Techniques, Tailoring, Cooking, Hunting, Foundation Building skills and various other Craftsmen techniques

“Ahhh, aren’t these the abilities I had when I was playing [Western Fantasy]? Why would they appear in my mind now? Even more incredible, there are also detailed methods of cultivation! But sadly, other than this [Ancient Strengthening Technique], the others seem to be useless to me.

Qing Shui was very excited, in [Western Fantasy] , the human race had the highest capacity for learning. Those that cultivated to the pinnacle of martial arts could even fight with celestials and demons. However, he understood that in this world, there were no gods or demons; the strongest warriors here would only be able to instantly destroy cities with the wave of a hand.

From his experiences playing [Western Fantasy], Qing Shui knew

that the strongest skills were not martial art techniques but were instead the complementary support arts, like strengthening and foundation building techniques. Even with no martial arts techniques, just by building one's foundation, one could become invincible; that is if one practises to the zenith of foundation building arts and strengthening techniques. As the saying goes, practicing martial arts without establishing your foundation well, in the end it will all be for naught!

Qing Shui also realised that the names of the techniques, as well as their detailed description in ways of cultivating were all deeply imprinted in his mind. He had gained the ability to memorise anything he saw instantly!

Eidetic Memory?

Like a mirage, after the images of all the different skills from [Western Fantasy] flashed through his mind, a gigantic image of Yin and Yang appeared in his sea of consciousness!

An image of Tai-Chi! [1] Or should I call it Yin Yang?

As the ancient dictum goes “After the chaotic world had been created, it was divided into Yin and Yang by the creator in order to stabilize the world”, Alright, Qing Shui thought, he decided to refer to it as Yin and Yang.

After this, the Yin-Yang image gradually shrunk to the size of a seed. Slowly and continually rotating, fixed in his sea of consciousness. Qing Shui could slightly feel that with each round

of rotation, the symbol actually emitted a miniscule amount of energy. This energy flowed towards all of the major meridians, energy channels and organs in his body, slowly transforming them.

At this instant, Qing Shui felt as if his body contained boundless amounts of energy. However, he was confused. Didn't I die from electrocution while playing [Western Fantasy]? Why did the abilities from [Western Fantasy] appear here today?

Could it be that it is somewhat related to me fainting from exhaustion?

Forget it. In the past I was a trash that couldn't cultivate, no matter what transformation took place in my body, it cannot be worse than what it was originally!

Qing Shui was in a semi-conscious state. Despite feeling immensely invigorated in comparison to his past self, he was still unable to regain consciousness. He could sense that the rotation of the Yin-Yang symbol in his mind would rotate continually for eternity. Qing Shui was unsure of the actual reason, but he had a very strong intuition that this symbol will change his destiny!

All of a sudden, he heard voices calling out his name!

“Ah, its mother!”

Heard Qing Yi calling out his name desperately, he felt a surge of

AST: Chapter 4 – Ancient Strengthening Technique

The next day, just when dawn was breaking, Qing Shui awoke naturally. He noticed that Qing Yi was sitting next to his bed, holding his hands. Hints of worry and exhaustion could be seen on her face, even her gentle and beautiful eyes had traces of blood in them!

After noticing that Qing Shui was awake, Qing Yi hugged him with a happy expression on her face.

“Shui’er, you’ve finally regained consciousness. Are you feeling alright? Is there any discomfort?!” Qing Yi ardently asked.

“Mother dearest..” Qing Shui tenderly called out, his heart filled with gratitude. Knowing that Qing Yi had stayed up the whole night just to accompany him tugged at his heart strings as bitterness filled his heart.

As he called out, Qing Yi could feel that there were hints of grievance and regret in his voice. In this world, as a male, if you could not hold your own against others, then no matter how much money you have you will still be trash! Even those of low cultivation would have the right to trample you. This dog-eat-dog world was simply following the simple logic of ‘might makes right’.

Qing Yi hugged her son tightly, feeling that she had somehow let him down.

“Mother, go to sleep. You must be very tired after staying awake the entire night.” Qing Shui could only adopt a child-like way of speaking in an attempt to coax Qing Yi to go sleep. Even so, Qing Yi felt warmth in her heart and could tell that Qing Shui’s intelligence was far above the norm. What a pity that he was unable to cultivate. If not for that, based on his high level of comprehension he would most certainly have been a genius. Not only that, he was ultimately the son born of her and that man..

But now... Sigh.. There was no use for regrets..

In the end, she was still coaxed by Qing Shui and obediently laid down on the bed. As Qing Shui wanted to get down from the bed to make space for Qing Yi, she reached out and embraced her little boy. Qing Shui nestled up close to her bosom and gently lay in his mother’s embrace.

Qing Yi promptly fell asleep. After all, she had been up for the whole night and was exceedingly weary. Seeing that Qing Shui was fine, she could finally relax and fell into a slumber.

After waiting for Qing Yi to fall asleep, Qing Shui lightly stepped out of the room, enthusiasm slowly filling his heart. Now, he was no longer the trash he had been! He felt that he had undergone a miraculous transformation. Maybe now... he could be like the others and embark upon the road of cultivation. It did not matter that he was slightly older than the rest when they started, as long as he had a inextinguishable will to succeed, then no matter how many obstacles there were before him, he would not stumble!

Qing Shui wanted to test his hypothesis. The moment he stepped out of the Qing Mansion, he started to run at top speed. At this moment, his heart was filled with trepidation, he was worried that all that had happened would turn out to be an illusion, and that his dream of cultivating would once again be shattered.

With only a single breath, he managed to run half the distance to the top of the mountain. Even though he was breathing hard, he did not feel asphyxiated, like in the past. There was a remarkable difference when compared to before! He felt that since last night, his body had undergone an extremely phenomenal change. After contemplating on it, he guessed that it must be because of that image of Yin-Yang which was now embedded in his sea of consciousness!

Qing Shui closed his eyes, slowly entering into a state of mediation. His spirit gradually going into his sea of consciousness where he saw the Yin-Yang symbol again. The Yin-Yang symbol was rotating relentlessly, emitting unending streams of energy, slowly transforming Qing Shui's body and organs.

During the bout of unconsciousness yesterday, a lot of information regarding foundation building and strengthening techniques had flowed into his mind. He had already decided there and then that he would use them to strengthen his constitution. Moreover, as of now, he no longer had the same frail and delicate body from before. The Yin-Yang symbol in his sea of consciousness was constantly nourishing him with energy, slowly transforming his body. He was sure that alongside with his current physique, by practising the Ancient Strengthening Technique diligently, he would not need too much time before the quality of his body would become stronger than common cultivators.

Time flowed by quickly, dawn had already arrived. Looking at the sun slowly rising up, casting its golden glow onto the organisms of the earth, the freshness of the air in these mountains as well as the fragrance of the flowers and plants, they made one feel joy in one's hearts.

Qing Shui tidied up the various information in his mind and decided to focus all of his attentions on mastering body strengthening techniques! The most important point of the strengthening technique lied in having a solid foundation. The toughness of his body and bones. As long as the quality of his body was strong enough, there would basically be no difference between him and the other cultivators.

Strengthening techniques formed the basis of a cultivator's foundation, the technique that appeared in Qing Shui mind was one of the most ancient strengthening techniques ever created by mankind. It could even allow cultivators who cultivated it to its peak to clash with gods and demons. It wouldn't be wrong to say that all strengthening techniques had traces of their origin come from the Ancient Strengthening Technique that Qing Shui was planning to practise. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that this technique was one of the strongest techniques!

Practising the Ancient Strengthening Technique could allow a cultivator to build up his constitution. The effects were somewhat similar to the rotating, seed-sized Yin-Yang symbol inside of him. The Ancient Strengthening Technique could also nourish one's bones and marrow, refine the organs in one's body, eventually evolving the muscles to become soft to the touch, yet at the same time also be capable of rivaling the toughest steel and iron!

This is what strengthening techniques meant. They could even greatly enhance the vitality of the practitioner!

Qing Shui tried to recall the details of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. It appeared that he could do so effortlessly, confirming the fact that he now had eidetic memory! The Yin-Yang symbol was also entwined with him, continually rotating within his sea of consciousness!

Qing Shui found a secluded spot and went over there to practise the Ancient Strengthening Technique. To practise it, one did not need to meditate. The cultivator only needed to calm his heart and slowly rotate the Qi inside their body.

Qing Shui started to analyse and fumble his way through the methods of cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique. After trying to do it for some time, he was still unable to form a single strand of Qi. Qing Shui persisted on as he knew that Rome wasn't built in a single day. If it was that simple to become strong, the world would've already been filled with countless experts!

Qing Shui continued to persevere and continued attempting to form the strand of Qi over and over again. Each time he failed it merely motivated him to try harder and harder.

Gradually, Qing Shui began to feel numb. He had attempted this for what seemed like an eternity, but he was still unable to form that first strand of Qi!

After another hour passed, Qing Shui opened his eyes and realised that it was almost noon. He knew that he would have to return home soon, as he did not want Qing Yi to worry about him. Despite standing in this remote location for the whole morning, Qing Shui did not tired at all! He began to slowly jog back to Qing Mansion.

Upon arriving at the Qing Mansion, Qing Shui realised that the training session for the Qing Clan's younger generation had yet to end. Now, while looking at them practising their close combat skills and swordplay, he felt nothing. The previous feelings of envy and jealousy he got while watching them had now been replaced with the determination to become even stronger than them!

After entering the courtyard, he bumped into Qing Luo. "Qing Shui, did you go out to play again? You should rest at home more and nurse your body back to health!" Qing Luo gently rebuked him.

"Grandpa, I was just taking a stroll near the entrance of the Qing Mansion, do not worry about me, I am completely fine!" Qing Shui knew that his grandfather was truly worried for him.

"En, you must be more careful. Today, I sent someone to Hundred Miles City to purchase the stalk of a 100 year old purple ginseng. We will boil and extract it's essence so that you can have it for dinner tonight!" Qing Luo said with a doting gaze in his eyes.

Qing Luo could also tell that Qing Shui had exceptional intelligence. Every sentence of his was spoken with both clarity and intent, he was almost like an adult in terms of mentality. What

a waste it was that he was unable to cultivate.. Qing Luo sighed..

AST: Chapter 5 – Qing Shui Cultivates!

These days were very peaceful, despite the fact that he was still unable to form that single strand of Qi, Qing Shui was still practising the Ancient Strengthening Technique relentlessly. He believed that he would succeed sooner or later.

The Yin-Yang symbol within his sea of consciousness was constantly nourishing his body, Qing Shui could feel his constitution slowly improving. The improvements did not refer to his muscles but to his bones and organs getting tougher!

Qing Shui still looked small and weak. However, amidst his skinny and delicate body frame one could now sense a hint of vitality that was not there before! The sense of charm inside his eyes had also grown to the point where it held a hint of profoundness.

Qing Shui knew that he should disclose his current body condition, letting them know that he had rebuilt his constitution and could begin to practise martial arts. Initially, Qing Shui planned to keep this a secret, but he longed for the day where the hope in Qing Yi's eyes would be realised. Therefore, Qing Shui decided to tell Qing Yi the truth.

As he returned from the mountains, inside the courtyard of the Qing Mansion, the clan members from the 3rd generation were all zealously practising the Qing Clan secret technique – Blue Lotus Art

Due to Qing Shui being unable to cultivate for several years there was now a considerable distance between him and the other clan members, so they no longer cared when they saw this “trash” walk by.

At the innermost section of the Qing Mansion.

Qing Yi was standing at the house entrance. This was the place where both mother and son had stayed all of their life. There was a small garden here, completely filled with plants and flowers as well as a medium sized lake with azure coloured carps swimming around leisurely. It gave people a rustic feeling as they gazed at this place.

Qing Yi was standing by the lake side, her beautiful face alongside her gentle and graceful demeanour gave off a sense of beauty that could only be described as sinking fishes falling birds [1]. At this moment it was as if Qing Yi was a perfect portrait of beauty! However, there were moments where one could sense sadness emanating out as she stood there.

Qing Shui already saw his mother from a distance away, this is the umpteenth times he saw Qing Yi standing in the exact same position. “Sigh... but what can I do now?” To attain her wish, I must first become stronger... Much stronger than I am currently.

At the age of 1, Qing Shui could already understand the things people said around him. Qing Yi naturally didn’t know this and would often sigh and talk to him about her secrets as a form of release when Qing Shui was still an infant.

Qing Shui covertly sneaked out before he shouting in a loud voice “Mother, I am back, I have recovered, I am fine now!!” He did not want Qing Yi to know that he had witnessed her despair earlier. He felt that this despair of hers was too personal for him to encroach upon, therefore Qing Shui decided to loudly announce his arrival so that Qing Yi could notice him.

It was just as he thought, once Qing Yi heard his voice her expressions instantly changed, greeting him with a smile on her face with no signs of her earlier melancholy.

Qing Shui felt a stab of pain in his heart. “Mother suffered so much, but in order not to let me worry, she always pretended to be happy in front of me. Only in the middle of the night, when there was no one around, would she finally cry out.”

“Mother, I have completely recovered! I can now cultivate!” Qing Shui happily smiled.

Qing Shui could see traces of happiness and the once extinguished hope rekindle in Qing Yi eyes!

“Did you do anything forbidden? Do not make me worry Qing Shui, I just want you to be happy..” Qing Yi slightly berated Qing Shui, because from her expert opinion it was almost impossible for Qing Shui to recover. There was almost no way for him to start cultivating because of his weak heart.

Qing Shui knew that it wouldn't be that easy for Qing Yi to

believe in it.

“Mother, it is true. These few days, Grandpa has brewed a lot of purple ginseng soup for me to consume. Grandpa said that these 100 year old ginsengs were invaluable!” Qing Shui spoke excitedly in the manner of a child.

After hearing this, Qing Yi felt that there was a slight chance that Qing Shui’s constitution could actually have improved! She then asked “Qing Shui, tell me the details of everything that happened, I want to be clear before making any diagnosis”.

“Two days ago, after drinking the 100 year ginseng brew, I felt full of energy. It was as though the problem of my breathlessness had also disappeared! Mother had forbidden me from sprinting as my heart may not be able to take the stress. However, at that point I could feel a sense of boundless energy within me. Thus I ran faster and faster, up the mountain and back down to the Qing Mansion, but nothing bad happened to me!” Qing Shui hurriedly explained.

“Is this true...? Shui`er, is what you said true?!” Qing Yi eyes were brimming with tears.

“ It is the truth. Even Grandpa knows about it, he took my pulse and said that I was fine. To be even more certain he wants to bring me to Doctor Wu, so I came to invite mother to go with me!” Qing Shui excitedly pulled Qing Yi’s sleeves slightly as he talked.

“Alright! Let us go together!” Qing Yi happily held Qing Shui’s

hand. The excitement in her heart was forcibly suppressed, but Qing Shui could still somewhat feel it. Now she is just temporarily overjoyed, but in the future, I will make sure that she stays happy forever!

“Qing Clan’s Master, congratulations! Young Master Qing Shui has no problems with his body at all. In fact, his internal organs are even stronger than ordinary people. This rate of recovery is really too astounding!” Doctor Wu enthusiastically added.

At this moment, just these few sentences from Doctor Wu confirming Qing Shui’s recovery caused tears to flow down Qing Yi’s face. She was tightly embracing Qing Shui. Qing Shui smiled as he knew that these were tears were not born out of anguish, but came from happiness!

“Mother dearest.. don’t cry.” Qing Shui gently wiped the tears off her face.

After escorting Doctor Wu out, Qing Luo returned with a peculiar expression on his face.

Initially, Qing Shui had a very weak constitution, unsuitable for practising martial arts. Qing Luo was also sad for him. After all, Qing Shui was the son of his beloved daughter. However, if Qing Shui ever managed to recover, he would surely be stronger than average when compared to people of the same martial realm. If he grew up, he would definitely become an exceptional genius, and given how much he loved his mother, he would absolutely seek revenge in the future! Sigh, this must be karma..

“Grandpa, Mother, I wish to cultivate!” These few words from Qing Shui greatly startled both Qing Luo and Qing Yi.

AST: Chapter 6 – Blue Lotus Art

Qing Luo felt an ambivalence of happiness and bitterness. Previously, since fate had decreed that Qing Shui would be unable to cultivate, it wouldn't be a problem for him to just live out his life peacefully inside the Qing Clan. However, now that he had recovered and was able to practise martial arts, it was unknown. In the future, would it be a blessing or tragedy for the Qing Clan....

Compared to Qing Luo, Qing Yi was in euphoria., Her son had finally recovered, he would never have to hear someone call him trash again. If not for this change, Qing Yi was worried that Qing Shui would eventually go mad because of his desire to attain power.

“Qing Shui, the current me does not have the capability to bring you back to your rightful home... However, since you have recovered, you can finally take a small step onto the path of cultivation. In the future, you must depend on your own power to get back what was originally yours.”

Due to his memories from when he was a baby, Qing Shui could understand fragments of what Qing Yi said. It was enough for now. When he got stronger, he would naturally comprehend more about the truth behind his background.

Qing Luo softly sighed, after which he nodded his head and patted Qing Shui on his head before leaving.

“Mother, I feel that Grandpa is somewhat unwilling to let me cultivate?” Qing Shui curiously questioned.

“How could that be possible? There is no such thing, your Grandpa is just worried since it is inevitable to have fights with other cultivators on the road of cultivation. He is only worried that you might get wounded.” Qing Yi warmly said as she patted Qing Shui’s head.

“Mother, could you instruct me now? I want to start right away.” After all, he had not even mastered the first step of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Even if he had mastered it, the Ancient Strengthening Technique could only be executed to its highest level of potential when it was complementing martial techniques. It was going to be his first experience in training in martial arts as well, therefore he also hoped that he could learn and demonstrate those impressive-looking moves.

“Excellent, come over here Qing Shui, I will impart you with my insights regarding the dao of martial arts.” Qing Yi happily pulled Qing Shui closer.

“Okay!”

Qing Yi’s study room was not extremely spacious, but it was clean and organised. The faint scent of ancient books permeated the room, it was a pleasant smell.

“Qing Shui, martial arts cultivation can be very arduous. Are you afraid.” Qing Yi softly asked as she sat down next to Qing Shui.

“I am not afraid mother. No matter how many obstacles are placed before me, I will treat them as my stepping stones, I will never stumble!”

Qing Yi gently laughed, the temperament of this child of hers was the exact same as his father's! Unbiddenly, waves of melancholy assailed her heart as she thought of Qing Shui's father.

“Qing Shui, cultivation can be generally split into 2 paths. First is the foundation building, second is the martial techniques. Only by combining both together will one be able to unleash true formidable might.

“Mother, does this means that the more solid one's foundation is, the greater strength one would be able to exhibit?” Qing Shui asked after contemplating for a short while.

Qing Yi was stunned, the level of Qing Shui's comprehension was too high...

“You could say that, as the saying goes; practising martial arts without first establishing a solid foundation, in the end it all comes to naught.”

“Mother, then.. could you teach me our family's Blue Lotus Art?” Qing Shui had been in the Qing Clan for 8 years, there was no

reason why he would not know of the existence of the Qing Clan's secret martial skill.

“Okay, Blue Lotus Art is the strongest set of martial techniques passed down from our Qing Clan's ancestors. Other than enabling one to strengthen one's body, Blue Lotus Art also consists of utilising both offensive and defensive techniques. You must understand that most martial arts practised by cultivators only served to strengthen one's body-Many of those arts do not include offensive techniques, much less defensive ones. Blue Lotus Art is of a higher tier compared to those!”

“Wow.. isn't Blue Lotus Art unrivaled when compared to other cultivation techniques then?” Qing Shui asked in awe.

Qing Yi lamented, “A long time ago, the ancestor of our Qing Clan cultivated the Blue Lotus Art Technique to the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage. He became a peerless expert of his time, but after countless generations, our Qing Clan have declined to the point where we can only survive in this small mountain village.”

“Mother, what does the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage means?”

“The Blue Lotus Art, after comprehending and attaining mastery of each stage, will result in the manifestation of a protective lotus. The protective lotus can then be used for attack or defense. The ancestor previously mentioned almost managed to cultivate the Blue Lotus Art to its pinnacle, resulting in the manifestation of 9 protective lotuses!”

“Mother, then what is the stage of your cultivation? How many lotuses can you currently manifest?” Qing Shui asked.

Qing Yi bowed her head and said with a hint of embarrassment, “Only two at the moment...”

“Hmm, then how about Grandpa?” Qing Shui continued to ask.

“Your Grandpa has reached the the 3rd Lotus Manifestation stage. He is currently the strongest person in our Qing Clan, having reached the peak of Hou Tian stage.” Qing Yi answered.

“Then how many stages can the Blue Lotus Art be divided into? What is the highest stage one can cultivate to?”

“Our Blue Lotus Art consists of a total of 10 stages. At the Martial Warrior and Martial General stage, it is completely impossible to manifest any lotus. Only when one reach the stage of Martial Commander, 7th Grade, will one be able to manifest a single lotus. The second lotus is at Martial Commander, 8th Grade. And finally, the third lotus is at Martial Commander, 10th Grade! (peak of Hou Tian)

“Then, how did the ancestor cultivate to the stage of manifesting 9 lotuses?”

Looking at Qing Shui confusedly blinking his beautiful eyes, Qing Yi softly sighed... Although Qing Shui was very intelligent, she could not tell him of this right now..

“The cultivation methods for the later stages of the Blue Lotus Art have already been lost long ago.. Currently we only possess the methods up to the Hou Tian realm.. As for stages past the Xian Tian Realm, we have no idea on how to further proceed. That is why your Grandpa has been stuck at the peak of Hou Tian, unable to break into the Xian Tian Realm.”

“Mother will now instruct you in the beginning stance of the Blue Lotus Art.” Qing Yi stood up and motioned Qing Shui to follow her.

In the basement.

Qing Yi educated Qing Shui about the various meridians and energy channels within the human body. Prior to this, Qing Shui had already obtained this information from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, therefore it was easy for him to follow Qing Yi’s teachings. After listening to Qing Yi share her knowledge, Qing Shui also gained enlightenment in terms of cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique

2 hours later.

When Qing Yi departed, Qing Shui was slowly entering into a meditative state.

Mediation, this was an quintessential practice in the way of cultivation. This was especially true when it came to cultivating higher-tiered martial arts. If one could not even calm one's heart, one would not be able to go far on the road to become an expert.

Looking at the ease in which Qing Shui entered a meditative state, Qing Yi couldn't help but be startled. His talent was really unbelievable!

Qing Shui was cultivating based on the oracular formula of the Blue Lotus Art, gradually entering into a state similar to when he was cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique, arriving in a realm of fantasy, as if his soul had been projected out of his body.

Eventually, Qing Shui could feel a strand of hair-thin Qi emerging from his Dan Tian [1], flowing along his energy channels and circulating around his body. This strand of Qi felt extremely fragile, as if it could break any moment.

Gradually, after the Qi had circulated for the full span of a single day and night, it flowed back into his Dan Tian.

Qing Shui has finally succeeded in condensing Qi! Happily, he open his eyes with a face full of elation.

"I imagine that if I told mother of this success, she would definitely be astounded." he said with a grin.

AST: Chapter 7 – Impurities Cleansing

Qing Shui had never felt better in his entire life! It was akin to someone dying of thirst in the desert and suddenly a huge source of water appearing in front of him. This sense of contentment was a type of feeling that resonates with both one's body and soul.

Qing Shui slowly walked out of the basement.

“Mother dearest..” Qing Shui jubilantly called out.

Qing Yi was pleasantly surprised, Qing Shui had only been mediating for a short while. She still had not recovered from the elation she felt when Qing Shui entered the meditative state with ease, and now Qing Shui appeared to have completed his training.

“Mother, I have managed condensed Qi! However, it is very thin, just like a strand of hair.”

These words left Qing Yi dumbfounded. Her graceful, jade-like face turned red and her lips started to tremble..

“Qing Shui, quickly give me your hand!” Qing Yi eagerly said.

Qing Shui obediently obeyed, presenting his hands to Qing Yi. Qing Yi extended her own graceful, snow-white and jade-like hands, taking Qing Shui hands into hers.

“Qing Shui, quickly circulate your Qi based on the formula of the Blue Lotus Art.”

After awhile, Qing Yi emotionally embraced Qing Shui and kissed him twice on his cheeks.

“Shui’er, you are a genius... a real genius.” Qing Shui said with a hint of excitement in her voice. Of course, Qing Yi would only lose her composure in front of her son.

Seeing how happy Qing Yi was, Qing Shui’s heart was also filled with warmth. He knew that although Qing Yi usually appeared to be very happy and always wore a smile on her face, she was merely acting strong for his sake. This time though, Qing Shui knew that Qing Yi was genuinely happy from the depths of her heart.

“Mother will be going first to prepare some delicacies for my little genius.” Qing Yi said while she patted Qing Shui’s head lovingly.

After Qing Yi left, Qing Shui shook his head in helplessness. His actual age was not that much younger than Qing Yi’s. However, with his current small body frame, he would have to talk in a way similar to that of a child. He also felt that the praises he received from adults were said in a nauseously sweet manner.

With a mother like this, even if the heavens tumbled down Qing Shui would still be unconcerned, Qing Shui only wish right now was for this woman whom he called mother to be happy.

It may be because of her good mood recently, but she had a much

better appetite compared to the past. It was the same for Qing Shui, but he did not know that the actual reason for this was because of his intensive training as well as the fact that he could finally relax and be happy.

“Mother, let me go out to stretch my legs for now. I will join the rest of our clan members for cultivation practice tomorrow.”

Qing Shui was blinking his beautiful eyes and smiled at her with a hint of confidence that had been absent until now. He did not believe that he was weaker than the rest of the 3rd generation martial students.

Qing Shui would only show this smile containing a childish countenance in front of Qing Yi.

And everytime Qing Yi saw Qing Shui's beautiful eyes, her memories would dredged up involuntarily, she could not help but become distracted, albeit recovering quickly.

Qing Shui walked out of Qing Mansion and returned to a secret cave he discovered during his time of exploring the mountains. For the past few days, this cave was the place where he had practised the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

The cave was very small, only having the space of a single room. When Qing Shui first discovered the cave, he was filled with excitement and carried the hope of finding some mysterious treasure or top tier martial arts manuals within it. Contrary to his expectations, he found neither of the above. He only found a

thumb-sized piece of oval jade pendant after ransacking the cave. The pendant was somewhat worn and tattered, initially he did not want to keep it. However, as he took a closer look at it, he noticed that there was a Yin-Yang symbol inscribed on the pendant! Thus, he decided to keep it. The pendant produced a warm feeling when he touched it.

He was reminded of the Yin-Yang symbol within his sea of consciousness and decided to wear the pendant around his neck, hidden inside his clothes.

After he found it, he would come to this cave everyday and leave after cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Today was no exception, despite countless disappointment as he struggled to understand the first layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he would still come back to this cave and cultivate it every single day. The thought of giving up had never crossed his mind.

Previously, Qing Shui was still unable to master the first layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. There was supposed to be a formation of a flow of Qi, making the Dan Tian become something akin to a whirlpool.

But today, today was different. After successfully condensing the single strand of Qi from cultivating the Blue Lotus Art, a small cloud of mist had formed within his Dan Tian.

Sitting down cross legged, Qing Shui activated the Ancient Strengthening Technique. To his surprise, the strand of Qi which appeared after cultivating the Blue Lotus Art had actually begun to circulate through his meridians and energy channels as dictated by the Ancient Strengthening Technique!

Qing Shui was a little confused.

After circulating the Qi for sometime, that single strand of Qi seemed to have become slightly thicker, the flow of Qi also got stronger.

Could it be that, this was the purpose of the Ancient Strengthening Technique? It needed a catalyst before it could be activated? The strand of Qi from the Blue Lotus Art was the catalyst it needed! That may be the reason why the Ancient Strengthening Technique has different layers.

The Ancient Strengthening Technique could be differentiated into 9 different layers, representing the 9 heavens. In the early stages of the technique, one could temper one's Dan Tian. In the later stages, one could even reach Core Formation!

“Forget it, I will cultivate first and worry about the rest in the future.”

Qing Shui cautiously circulate his Qi while closing his eyes. Unknown to him, when his Qi was circulating according to the path of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, when it flowed to his chest the pendant around his neck started to glimmer with faint traces of light. The traces of light were extremely pure to behold, it was not dazzlingly bright, but it was still exceptionally beautiful.

This was not noticed by Qing Shui. While cultivating along the path designated by the Ancient Strengthening Technique, after the Blue Lotus Qi completed a grand cycle of circulation [1], Qing Shui

realised that there were now 2 streams of Qi. 1 yellow and 1 blue, converging together in his Dan Tian.

Unknown to him, his Dan Tian had also evolved, forming a whirlpool of Qi. He could vaguely feel that the whirlpool of Qi was constantly revolving. Qing Shui could feel that it was capable of producing immense amounts of energy!

“So my guess was right, the Ancient Strengthening Technique needed a catalyst before it could be activated.. No wonder I previously failed so many times.”

The Qi from the Blue Lotus Art was light blue in colour, so that yellow Qi should have originated from the Ancient Strengthening Technique.” Qing Shui deduced.

“Finally, the formation of the flow of Qi have succeeded, in the future, I will depend largely on the Ancient Strengthening Technique and the continually rotating symbol of Yin Yang in my sea of consciousness to slowly refine my body and strength to a terrifying stage. At that stage, without the use of any martial techniques and just based on the toughness of my body alone, I should be comparable to an expert.”

“I absolutely cannot slack off in my cultivation of the Blue Lotus Art. At the very least, I must reach the ninth Lotus Manifestation Stage.” What a pity that the later stages of cultivation methods had been lost. Qing Shui dejectedly shook his head. He felt that Qing Yi should know something about the missing cultivation methods, it was just that she could not tell him at this moment in time.

“Never mind, mastering the Ancient Strengthening Technique is more important than the Blue Lotus Art. After all, I want to train in the Blue Lotus Art as a means of deceiving others, hiding the existence of my Ancient Strengthening Technique.”

“Today, I have managed to comprehend the basics of the initial layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, it could be said that it’s a good start. I should not overthink things. Like mother said, pride comes before a fall. It will be better for me to take one step at a time.”

Only after ending his practice did Qing Shui realise that there was an oily, black layer of filth, emitting an unpleasant smell, excreted from his pores.

Could this be... Impurities Cleansing?

AST: Chapter 8 – Divine Strength

Starting from the second day, Qing Shui joined the 3rd generation clan members in their daily training sessions. This had always been Qing Shui's dream. Countless times in the past, as he passed by the practice yard, he had no choice but to look at them from afar as the 3rd generation members strengthened themselves, intensely practicing their martial techniques with vigor.

Now that he had recovered, the first decision he made was to cultivate. The second decision was to join the Qing Clan's daily training session. The elder in charge of supervising the daily training was named Qing Hai, he was the 4th son of Qing Luo and the father of his best friend, Qing Hu.

Cultivation of the Blue Lotus Art, only counted when the practitioner reached the realm of Martial Warrior, Martial General and Martial Commander. Each realm was further divided into 10 grades. As a result, the Qing Clan had a total of 3 versions for practising in the Blue Lotus Art. These 3 versions are, low-tier, mid-tier, and top-tier.

As for practitioners at the Martial Student stage, there was no need to segregate them into 10 grades. As long as one cultivates, he could be considered to be at the Martial Student level. After a practitioner at the Martial Student level cultivates for a minimum of 3 years, forming Qi, he could be considered a Martial Warrior, albeit one of the lowest grade – Martial Warrior, Grade 1.

After condensing that single strand of Qi, Qing Shui would naturally be considered as having reached Martial Warrior, Grade

1. He was considered one of the weakest amongst the members from the 3rd generation, yet strangely enough, he was the happiest and most confident one amongst all of them.

“Qing Shui, congratulations on finally achieving your wish!” Qing Hu smiled.

Qing Shui nodded. Today was the first day where he officially entered the Qing Clan’s practice yard. At this moment, Qing Shui slowly surveyed the humble looking practice yard. The enormous floor tiles were made out of pieces of blue stones, and the roof was shaped similar to a pavilion.

Those practising here are all cultivators, be it rain or shine they would never shy away from their purpose. Their top priority would always remain deep inside their hearts, cultivating regardless of anything else!

Cultivation of the Blue Lotus Art would always be done in one’s basement. No matter which generation you were in, as long as you cultivated, you would be given your own basement. The practice yard was used for the purpose of increasing one’s strength, improving one’s martial art stances and one’s hand-to-hand combat skills.

It was a custom of the Qing Clan to only allow their younger members to practice martial art techniques after they had built up their basic foundation and internal strength. No matter how impressive a technique is, it would only be able to fully display its might with the support of one’s internal energy. Without first building up one’s foundation, practicing martial art techniques

would only lead to more harm than good.

In the practice yard, the younger members were practicing the strongest, low-tier foundation building art as well as simple fist techniques, helping them train the coordination, movement, and flexibility of their bodies.

Normally, one would only be allowed to practice martial techniques when one had cultivated the Blue Lotus Art up to Martial Warrior, 6th Grade!

Currently amongst the Qing Clan's 3rd generation members, only Qing Zi and Qing You had the qualifications to practice martial techniques. The rest did not have permission to do so yet. The 3rd generation members were all eagerly anticipating the day when they would finally have the ability to do so. Moreover, they could not wait for the day they would reach the the first Lotus Manifestation stage, only obtainable at the Martial Commander, 7th Grade. Once one's protective lotus manifested, one could both attack or defend with it.

In the Qing Clan, once your strength had broken through to Martial Warrior, 6th Grade, you would no longer be required to join in on the daily training session. Therefore, Qing Shui did not see the eldest grandson Qing You, nor the widely acclaimed top genius of the Qing Clan, Qing Zi!

Qing Shui looked on as Qing Hu was currently lifting a huge looking rock, the rock looked to be roughly about 200 Jin[1]. Qing Shui initially wanted to go and give it a try, but in hindsight, after considering that Qing Hu, who was at the 3rd grade of the Blue

Lotus Art seemingly have slight trouble lifting it, he discarded that notion. He did not want to cause a ruckus by succeeding when he was clearly only at the first stage of the Blue Lotus Art.

After all, Qing Shui had the temperament of an adult. He was not afraid of losing face, not to mention that he had never considered himself to be the same level as these brats.

At the young age of 8, if he could even lift up a 20 jin rock, it would already be deemed as a miracle in his previous world.

Qing Shui looked around and decided to test his strength by challenging a 50 jin rock. Although he had a small frame, with the strength granted to him by the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he could exert a level of energy that's higher than most people.

Qing Shui placed his hands around the rock, utilizing all the strength he was capable of and tried to lift it.

After which, bursts of laughter rang aloud in the practice yard.

This was because, Qing Shui appeared to have fallen down as he had overestimated his strength by trying to lift that heavy rock.

However, deep within his heart, Qing Shui was extremely elated. Qing Shui could feel that when he tried to lift the 50 jin rock, he was unable to feel the weight of it, which resulted in him overusing his strength and thus losing his balance!

The other children thought that Qing Shui was unable to lift the 50 jin rock and fell down because of that.

“What are you all laughing at? Carry on with what you were doing.” A voice belonging to a valiant looking youth about 14-15 years old, growled menacingly. Qing Hu was unhappy about the contemptible glances the others threw at Qing Shui.

Qing Hu hurriedly went to the side of Qing Shui.

“Are you alright Qing Shui? Maybe it would be better if we start with something smaller?” Qing Hu said with a worried look in his eyes.

Qing Shui was very contented, as he could feel the sincerity of Qing Hu. As for the mocking laughter that echoed out earlier, it was as if Qing Shui did not care about it.

“I am alright, thank you Qing Hu.” Qing Shui smiled.

At this moment, a youth with a heroic bearing walked over.

“Qing Shui, are you alright? You should first warm up your body by jogging, practice our elementary fist techniques and stretch your body before challenging that 50 jin rock.” The youth instructed.

“Okay I got it, thank you for the pointers”. Qing Shui replied with a smile. Qing Shui knew that the youth’s name was Qing

Yang. Amongst the 3rd generation clan members, he was the strongest after Qing Zi and Qing You. His cultivation level had already broken through to the peak of Martial Warrior, 5th Grade! In the past, he had never ridiculed Qing Shui and even helped him sometimes. Therefore Qing Shui held quite a favorable view of him.

Qing Yang also smiled warmly, shortly after he left while reminding Qing Shui to be more careful.

In the practice yard, the number of the young members from the Qing Clan, including Qing Shui, totaled 16. On average, the population of the Qing Clan tilted more heavily towards the male side. Other than Qing Hu's family, whom had produced a female baby, the other households had all produced an average of 4 male babies.

Qing Hu's sister was named Qing Bei, Other than being the only female in the 3rd generation, she was also the youngest.

“Qing Shui gege [1], you must take care of yourself. If not Aunt Yi will become worried for you again..” Qing Bei opened her eyes wide in an attempt to convey the seriousness of the situation as she spoke in a concerned tone with a hint of childishness in it.

Looking at the cutesy little girl in front of him seriously nodding her head, Qing Shui almost forgot that he was only 8 years old himself, and could easily pass off as a cutesy little boy.

After the first attempt of lifting ended in failure, Qing Shui tried again for a second time. Adjusting his level of strength he slowly lifted the 50 jin rock up. Success! He felt that, for him, the weight of the 50 jin rock could only be classified as feather light.

After that he moved on to 80 jin, then 100 jin, 180 jin.....

In the time it takes to brew a cup of tea, Qing Shui had already arrived at the place where the 200 jin rocks were located. All of the Qing Clan's 3rd generation member, including Qin Yang was staring at Qing Shui with expressions of awe. If Qing Hai had not already departed from the practice yard, he too would have become astounded.

As Qing Shui attempted to lift the 200 jin rock, it appeared that he had to exerted a lot of energy to do so. Success! His success was met with shocked gazes and absolute silence.

Qing Shui was exultant in his heart, because when he was lifting the 180 jin rock, he almost stumbled as he was not strong enough. However, at that moment, the yellow strand of Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, automatically circulated without intention. Qing Shui could feel boundless waves of energy flowing into him, thus easily lifting that 180 jin rock.

When he was lifting the 200 jin rock, he did not want to recklessly cause a ruckus and cause the spectators think of him as a monster, or he would have trouble explaining his level of strength. As a result, he deceptively appeared to use a great amount of

strength before lifting the 200 jin rock.

“Qing Shui, Wow! I really could not tell that you had such strength within your deceptively thin body. When I lifted the 200 jin heavy rock, I had to use the Blue Lotus Art to aid me. However... you were able to lift it up with only your body strength.” Qing Hu exclaimed in admiration, without any hints of jealousy.

Qing Shui smiled shyly and said “This is already my limit.”

As the training session came to an end, everyone slowly departed. Initially, Qing Hu wanted to leave with Qing Shui, but Qing Shui rejected him saying that he still wanted to train more.

When Qing Shui was finally alone in the practice yard, he went directly to the largest rock in the 3rd generation disciples section. This rock weighs about 800 jin, only those who are at the peak of Martial Warrior, 5th Grade would be able to lift it...

AST: Chapter 9 – Break Through to the Second-Layered Heavens!

Time flowed by, another year has passed, since that time where he forcibly lifted up the 800 jin heavy rock, Qing Shui was even more certain of the benefits of strengthening his body and he was even more determined to walk on this path!

The Ancient Strengthening Technique obviously could be cultivated to temper his body, and that YinYang symbol rotating in his sea of consciousness had been constantly emitting energy to nourish his bones and the organs in his body. Other than the refining of his bones and organs, the YinYang symbol was also constantly raising his vital energy level to its peak, allowing Qing Shui to be even more perceptive..

After 1 year, Qing Shui no longer looked that delicate and frail anymore. Although his body frame were lacking in muscles when compared to the rest of the 3rd generation members, his body was extremely well balanced.

Qing Shui knew that this was a result of the benefits given to him by both the Ancient Strengthening Technique and the YinYang symbol. Qing Shui in his current state, could have already easily lifted up rocks weighing more than 1000 jin, however he was determined to keep his true abilities a secret and as such, none of the others found out.

In the one year that had passed, Qing Shui had cultivated to the Martial Warrior, 2nd Grade, for the Blue Lotus Art. Although he had already condensed Qi, no one knew about it and thus, he was classified as a Martial Student as based on the standards that he had not cultivated for a period that is longer than 3 years.

The majority of the 3rd generation disciples no longer taunted him, he was no longer the trash in their eyes. Qing Shui did not even notice their change in actions, After all, he was an adult in all aspects with the exception of his body and had never allowed the jeering and taunting to affect him.

Nonetheless, he did not mind interacting with these young disciples, he understood that they possessed the inherent nature of a child, all those taunts from before were without malice, they would obviously dislike that which was different from them.

Interaction with them actually granted Qing Shui a second chance to experience once again the heart of being a child, allowing himself to maintain a purity of heart that borders on innocence. He naturally wouldn't bother too much about them.

Qing Shui still had not had any interactions with the eldest grandson Qing Zi and the genius Qing You. After all, the 2 of them were not required to join in the daily training sessions of the Qing Clan. In contrast, he met Qing Yang quite often, now that Qing Yang was 16 years old, other than the traces of heroic bearing that could be seen from his features, he had also begun to exhibit a mature aura.

In this world, being 16 makes you of age and could be considered

an adult. Qing Yang had broken through to the Martial Warrior, 6th Grade of the Blue Lotus Art, slightly before the age of 16, entering into an important phase of his life. In the future, he would also no longer need to join in the Qing Clan's daily training session.

After Qing Yang broke through, the Qing Clan decided to have a banquet to celebrate as it can be considered a joyful event. If Qing Yang had broken through at the age of 17 instead, there would not be so much fanfare and importance placed on this celebratory banquet!

16 years old was the great divide. If Qing Yang had broken through to the Martial Warrior, 6th Grade only after the age of 16, in this life, his potential would only enable him to reach Martial Commander, 8th Grade at the very most. It would be highly improbable for him to break through to the 9th Grade and not to mention, the peak of Hou Tian.

However, if one broke through before the age of 16, one would usually be able to reach the Martial Commander, 9th Grade during his 40s or 50s. Reaching the 10th Grade (Peak of Hou Tian), would require on the individual's luck and destiny.

Within the 3rd generation, the ones with the greatest talent, other than the genius Qing You, and the eldest grandson Qing Zi, Qing Yang could also be considered as one of the better known figures.

Qing Bei's potential was also higher than average, it was just that she was born a female, female usually have more limitations when

they are cultivating when compared to males, in order to compensate for that, Qing Bei would require a plethora of medicinal herbs and tonics.

As dawn approaches, after Qing Shui finished his daily morning regime, he returned home to breakfast with Qing Yi. Since Qing Shui recovered, he could see that Qing Yi was smiling more often, even her eyes were brighter, appearing to have somewhat lighten the burden in her heart.

Qing Shui vaguely knew about the burden in Qing Yi's heart, he wanted to eradicate it totally, however he was only 8 years old now, he did not have sufficient power. Qing Shui made a vow to himself, the road ahead, no matter how arduous, he would unequivocally accomplish his mother's wishes!

“Qing Shui, I have already delayed my return to the City for half a month, I would need to return to the City after the meal today. This time round, I would need to escort a large batch of medicinal herbs, promise me that you will cultivate obediently at home okay? In the future, mother would still need to depend on your strength to fight for our rights against those despicable bloodsuckers.” [1] Qing Yi gently said as she patted Qing Shui's head, with such an intelligent son, she did not bother hiding this sort of inconsequential things from him.

Qing Shui slightly nodded his head, hints of unwillingness appeared in his eyes as he did not want to part from Qing Yi, but he knew that at this moment, he should maximize his cultivation time. Only after he gets stronger, would he be able to help Qing Yi. After learning from Qing Yi that the business she was in charge of

was related to medicinal herbs, Qing Shui could not help but be startled. Imprinted in his mind, there were information regarding Alchemy as well. It was just that in the present, he had no way of tapping into his potential knowledge potential on the art of pills concoction!

Initially, he had planned to accompany Qing Yi during her assignment. After which, he decided not to. With his current strength, he would only be a burden to Qing Yi as she would still have to divide part of her attention to protect him. Qing Shui could only sulk and allow Qing Yi to go alone.

“Mother, you have to be cautious during this trip, your safety should be your priority, even if the business transaction failed, the money lost could always be earned again. Mother, you only have a single son.. Give me a few years; I would definitely make you the happiest person in the world.” The reason why Qing Shui kept reiterating was to leave a deep impression behind in Qing Yi’s mind. He wanted to remind her that no matter what, she could not let herself be harmed, her safety was the most important, she still has him as her son! Even though he was young now, he would protect her when he grew up eventually.

Qing Shui only knew that Qing Yi was a medicinal herb merchant back when she revealed to him. He could also deduce that the business partners of Qing Yi all had backings from other families and clans with power much greater than the Qing Clan, so when it comes to splitting the profit, Qing Yi would always get the shorter end of the stick. Even though the business partners would siphon more than half of the profits away, the remaining profit could still said to be considerable. There would be no lack of people from the Qing Clan wanting to take over if Qing Yi decided to relinquish her

hold on it. Even though her heart was not feeling too comfortable, Qing Yi still decided to endure it.

If he could gain comprehension regarding the art of alchemy, there would not be a problem to concoct and refine some excellent grades of medicinal pills; Small Revitalizing Pellets, Golden Fragrant Jade Pills, Golden Sore Ointment, Beauty Temptress Pills, even legendary artifacts such as refining the Glowing Buddha Seeds and the 9 Souls Reincarnation Pellets. If this was the case; women, riches, authority and power would all belong to him! Qing Shui was eagerly anticipating the arrival of this day.

Qing Yi had departed; Qing Yi could be said as the source where most of Qing Clan's income comes from. Over half of the Qing Clan's income came from the medicinal herbs business of Qing Yi. Other than Qing Yi, there was apparently a few other Qing Clan members which were helping her out, if not it would be totally impossible for her to return and accompany Qing Shui for a period of more than 10 days.

Qing Shui was circulating Qi around his body based on the Ancient Strengthening Technique over and over again, after a year of cultivation, be in rain or shine, he had never stopped his cultivation before. Although the Qing Clan was somewhat stringent regarding the training of the 3rd generation disciples, other than that, they were free to do whatever they want outside the time needed for the training sessions.

Although Qing Shui was only 8-9 years old, in terms of mentality, he was already an adult, he evidently knew the importance of strength in this world. With his kid-sized body, he could not yet

achieve the wishes of Qing Yi, therefore, he expended all his effort and time on practicing his cultivation.

In his body, the streams of blue and yellow Qi was only slightly thicker than a strand of hair, converging together. For the past year, Qing Shui had been assiduously cultivating the Blue Lotus Art and had already broken through to the 2nd level.

However, for the Ancient Strengthening Technique, it was very bizarre, it was as if, the moment he had stepped in the door to the layer of the first heavens, he could already enjoy the benefits such as impurities cleansing. It was as though he did not need to cultivate to the peak of the first layer to enjoy the benefits it brought.

But even despite expending all his efforts and assiduously cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique for the past year, he had only reached the peak of the first layer, unable to break through the second layer!

In this past year, he did not know if it was coincidental, or the reason was because the Ancient Strengthening Technique was a complementary supporting art, Qing Shui found out by chance that he could simultaneously activate both the Blue Lotus Art and the Ancient Strengthening Technique together! This discovery made him overjoyed. Reaping twice the benefit with only half the effort!

Qing Shui was cultivating silently in his basement, circulating his Qi over his body over and over again, he could feel that he was on the verge of breaking through, but seemed to be lacking

something.. He knew that he was at the final bottleneck but whenever he tried to overcome the last barrier, he always failed. Rivulets of sweat flowed down his face in testament of the efforts he expended.

"I must make a breakthrough, for the sake of my mother, and myself, I will never succumb to failure, i must be stronger, i don't want to be labeled trash ever again, I MUST STAND AT THE SUMMIT OF THIS WORLD!"
RAWRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

An unknown amount of time passed, and as a faint whitish glow was appearing in the eastern skies, “Peng!” a sound akin to the popping of a bottle cork rang out, Qing Shui could feel an extremely comfortable and cooling energy flowing through his whole body. All of the 360 acupoints and his pores on his body were shivering as if in delight.

The hair-thin strand of Qi, after Qing Shui had broken through to the second-layered heavens had grown thicker by more than 10 times! It was as thick as wool now.

After slowly circulating his Qi for 36 cycles, Qing Shui could feel explosive energy in his body, even his perceptiveness increased, he could seem to see the world clearer, he could even see an ant walking on the ground clearly from far away. In a radius of 10m, he could hear everything lucidly.

AST: Chapter 10 – Solitary Rapid Fist

His senses had grown much sharper. Qing Shui's little visage creased into a happy smile. At this instant, there seemed to be even more information gushing into his mind! Could this be an effect of reaching the 2nd layer? After calming down, he scrutinised the new information in his mind and exclaimed in surprise!

Qing Shui was thunderstruck... "This.. this is the hidden weapon techniques!" What appeared in Qing Shui's mind was the art of hidden weapons technique.

Today, was a great day, a day of two simultaneously happy events, through this past year, he had been struggling to break through to the 2nd layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique and had finally achieve a breakthrough today.

Not only did his power increased tremendously, he now could also study the art of hidden weapon techniques! From his accumulated knowledge, Qing Shui knew that in this era of cold weapons, hidden weapons were the most terrifying of all weapons.

Especially, an expert of the hidden weapons technique, they could be said to be almost invincible in the killing arts; as the saying goes "Any weapon out in the open can be dodged easily but an hidden arrow is hard to defend against", and also not to mention that the might of hidden weapons were incomparable to the bow and arrow.

The best thing was that hidden weapons could catch an opponent

off guard, if cultivated to the pinnacle, it could be said that it was even possible to kill your opponents with leaves and petals, not to mention using a darts or stones. A hidden weapon expert could use anything as his weapon, and that was the most terrifying thing about hidden weapon experts.

After breaking through the 2nd-layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui understood that this was only the basics. Only by cultivating and breaking through to the higher layers of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, would he be able to acquire more powerful and ultimate skills.

Although Qing Shui could be said to be a 20+ years adult in terms of mentality, he was after all just a normal highschool student in his previous world, there was no difference at all if one compared him to a weak kitten. Now, even though he was just a child, he could already lift a 800 jin heavy rock 1 year ago! Not to mention that currently, he could even lift gigantic rocks weighing more than 1000 jin.

After he broke through to the 2nd-layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and feeling the boundless energy circulating his body, he felt that his 1000 jin strength prior to breaking through was actually considered to be quite pitiful. Looking at the corner of his basement, he targeted an enormous rock and send a fist flying at it.

“Peng.”

The enormous rock shattered into fragments. After Qing Shui executed the punch, he had managed to use up some of the explosive energy circulating in him, and thus he felt much more comfortable now. He was immensely satisfied with the power of his earlier strike. The might that it displayed, far exceeded his expectations.

As he thought back to earlier, where information about the hidden weapon techniques and ways to cultivate them came to him, there was another set of fist techniques that was unlocked. This set of fist technique could train one arms to be fast and nimble. The set of this fist technique was named Solitary Rapid Fist.

“What a strange name.” Qing Shui exclaimed, even in his previous life, he had never heard of this technique before.

The Solitary Rapid Fist only had 1 strike, but when mastered to the peak, one could execute this technique to terrifying heights. 1 into 2, 2 into 4, 4 into 8 and all the way until the peak where the changes are near infinite.

Qing Shui thought of his previous world where there was an expert who specialised in the use of flying daggers. Just with a flying dagger in hand, he could strike fear in the hearts of those who opposed him. From this, one could see the might of hidden weapon techniques.

As Qing Shui clumsily practiced the 10 initial stances of the

Solitary Rapid Fist, although the form was there, the essence was not. Qing Shui trained slowly, trying to reach an understanding of the underlying concepts behind it.

A slight rumbling noise sounded from his stomach, he had been absorbed in his cultivation for almost 2 whole days. Despite practising for whole of the morning, Qing Shui only managed to gain a slight wisp of insight from the Solitary Rapid Fist, a very elementary understanding of the concepts lying behind it.

Feeling much more comfortable after bathing, he ate his lunch and proceeded to walk out of the room.

“How lacklustre my life is, other than cultivating there was nothing else for me to do, i couldn’t possibly mingle around with the other 10 years old just to fool around.” Qing Shui said dispassionately.

Because Qing Shui was unwilling to interact with people of his age (9-10 years old), and he could not go wild by exhibiting his full powers for fear of attracting suspicions from the adults, he gained the reputation of being an arrogant and cold person. There even were still some who called him trash.

After all, among the 3rd generation disciples, reaching the 2nd level of Blue Lotus Art wasn’t anything to be glamorous about; he was still ranked at the back, still considered to be relatively weak. And, on the surface, he was one of the oldest clan member in the 3rd generation who is still stuck at the Martial Student realm! Even Qing Hu had already broken through to the Martial Warrior Realm. After all, as long as you have not cultivated for a period of 3

years or more, you will be considered as a Martial Student. From this, one could see how pitiful Qing Shui was thought of by the other 3rd generation disciple.

“Forget it, I shall not care about this mundane things too much, as long as I am certain of the path i want to walk and forge on with determination, there would definitely be a day where I reign supreme.” However, Qing Shui knew that the path ahead was still very long and arduous.

“Qing Shui.”

Qing Shui turned his head as he heard someone calling his name. The person was none other than Qing Hu’s father, Qing Hai.

“Ah, 4th uncle.”

“Why didn’t i see you at the training session this morning, are you unwell?” Qing Hai asked with concern in his voice..

“Oh, I’m alright, please do not worry about me 4th uncle, due to over practising last night, i fell asleep and could not wake up on time today. I will make sure this doesn’t happen again.” Qing Shui shook his head as he smiled embarrassedly.

“It is good that you are fine, pay more attention to your body alright, the path to cultivating is a long one and requires constant effort to be put in daily.” Qing Hai said.

Qing Hai was actually very proud of the amount of efforts which Qing Shui had expended in this 1 year. He was secretly glad that this nephew of his had changed for the better as compared to a few years ago. In the past, Qing Shui's personality was ice cold and ignored everyone except for his mother Qing Yi, now after he had recovered; he was more lively and thus opened up to more people.

“Yes, I understood, thank you 4th uncle!”

After bidding his goodbyes to Qing Hai, Qing Shui walked out of the Qing Mansion. Even when he was walking, Qing Shui was constantly moving his fist in accordance to the principles of the Solitary Rapid Fist, trying to gain more insights.

The Ancient Strengthening Technique had already strengthened and made his body more flexible and agile. Consequently, some of the moves that others would have trouble executing was demonstrated by Qing Shui effortlessly. He had even attained the state of divided concentration, where he could be focused on 2 things at a single time. As he practiced, his movements, breathing as well as the multitude of stances, slowly began to synchronise into one..

After 1 year, due to practicing the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui had managed to transform his body into something as tough as steel and also filled with savage strength.

However, up till now, he had not managed to have the chance to learn martial techniques, if he were to fight with an opponent; he could only depend on his brute strength. Martial techniques could be said to be the amplifier of brute strength. Despite so, one

absolutely cannot look down on Qing Shui.

After all, his brute strength originated from the tempering and refinement from the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Although Qing Shui had a very high regard for the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he knew that he could not forsake the cultivation of other martial techniques. In a real bloody fight to the death, martial techniques could be utilised to kill his opponents as efficiently as possible.

Gradually, Qing Shui's hand movements got more adept, people who gazed at him would be bewildered as their eyes would not be able to follow his hands movements. The more he practiced, the more he felt that the Solitary Rapid Fist was similar to some of the clamping martial techniques (e.g. Dragon Capturing Hands from Shao Lin) back in his previous world, only this was at a much higher level. It was somewhat similar to the super-close range bunting attacks of Wingchun..

Maybe it was due to practicing both the Blue Lotus Art and Ancient Strengthening Technique, or during the process where the gates of knowledge opened and flooded him with information, Qing Shui had an understanding regarding his body meridians and acupoints that could only be described as godly. He even knew the uses of hitting each acupoints and exact weaknesses of them.

“Solitary Rapid Fist, since it is a fist technique, it should be able to hurt people, after all fist could also be considered as a weapon.” Qing Shui deeply pondered.

“Yup, other than being able to train the flexibility and

nimbleness of my arms, it could also be used in a way that targets and attack the weaknesses of acupoints, energy channels and sensitive nerves of my opponent.” Qing Shui excitedly exclaimed after obtaining more insights into the Solitary Rapid Fist!

The stances of Qing Shui subtly changed in accordance to his insights. He had already reached an incredible state whereby he was one with his fists. He had closed his eyes, opting to use his heart to feel each movement, the neurons in his brain were firing at a rapid rate, analysing the pathway of imagined attacks, defense and retreat.

Suddenly, Qing Shui gradually slowed down and entered a state of contemplative silence.

Enlightenment

AST: Chapter 11 – First Handling of Hidden Weapons

This state of enlightenment could only be hoped for and not actively sought after. As the saying goes “10 years of hard training was not worth a single instant of enlightenment” It all depended on fate and luck of the individual!

Qing Shui did not know that he was currently in this state of enlightenment, he activated both the Ancient Strengthening Technique and Blue Lotus Art and slowly but naturally circulate both streams of Qi to complement his detailed execution of the Solitary Rapid Fist. The fist techniques that he demonstrated seemed to have a profound meaning inside them, yet each technique also contained a clear methodology, displaying the essence of the Solitary Rapid Fist thoroughly.

After he awoke from his enlightened state, the skies had already turned dark. It was as if he just had a surreal dream.

Qing Shui consolidated his thoughts and started to demonstrate each stance according to the insights he gained. The power, control of strength and accuracy of each and every stance he punched out greatly shocked him!

This was the true might of enlightenment, he could gain experience even when he was not sparring with an opponent!

An instant of enlightenment had allowed Qing Shui's strength to undergo earthshaking changes, even his psyche was affected, gaining confidence about traversing the road ahead.

Qing Shui was too immersed in the intricacies of what he had gained insight into, even when he ended his cultivation practice, he did not realise what had just occurred. After he had calm his thoughts, he realised that an unpleasant smelling, thick black layer of mud-like substances was oozing from his pores.

Impurities Cleansing? Qing Shui knew that this was an effect of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, it happened just when he had broken through to the first-layered heavens previously. If he did not witness this personally, he would not have believed that there was so much filth and impurities inside the small body frame of his.

“Why did this happen again? My impurities were not cleansed when I broke through to the 2nd-layered heavens, could it be... that bout of enlightenment from just now caused it?.” Qing Shui realised.

“This is simply.... too inconceivable, no wonder people say enlightenment could only be hoped for and not sought after, the benefits it brought were too valuable, too heaven defying.. this was simply like hacking. (MC was referring to the gaming hacks in his previous life)”

Qing Shui ran towards a small creek near the mountainside and washed away all the filth that was covering his body. After his ablutions, he began to observe the changes in his body after the 2nd round of impurities cleansing. His skin was fair and seemed to shine with a radiant glow, his muscles were corded, but not exaggeratedly so, unlike some of the 3rd generation disciples from the Qing Clan.

He took off his clothes and washed them in the creek before sunning them on a nearby rock and thought “In the stories, people who transcended their dimensions usually have things such as storage rings, magical bag of holdings, gold and jewelry, peerless martial arts and ravishing beauties crowding around them but what about him. Qing Shui had lived in this mountain village for 10 years, and he knew that stuff in those legendary stories are rarely true. Although the Qing Clan was located in a remote region, Qing Yi had surely traveled broadly and seen many things, as for Qing Luo, even in the major cities, he could also be considered as an expert.. Even both of them have not even vaguely heard of things that Qing Shui was thinking about!

Gold and jewelry, Qing Shui do not have, but in this mountain village, the Qing Clan was the one with biggest authority, he led a relatively comfortable life. Moreover, people in the villages don't really need a large amount of money to survive, majority of them lived off the land, farming and hunting in the boundaries of the mountains. Most of the time, the normal villagers would not dare to go into the deep mountains, it was rumoured that other than fierce beasts, there were even demonic beasts in there!

Beautiful girls, Qing Shui licked his lips and then sighed, looking at that prepubescent body of his, staring at his little bird [1], it would still be long before he could enjoy any carnal pleasures. In his past life, he was addicted to video games and as such, the only relationship he ever had was wrecked due to his obsession with games.

After he was reborn in this world, with the defects of his body, in the beginning if it was not for Qing Yi's love for him, he may have already committed suicide. After all, in this world where martial

arts meant everything, fate had dealt him a cruel blow.

Fortunately, the games he played in his past life actually altered his destiny in this world. After breaking through to the 2nd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, boundless energy infused his body, reaffirming his determination to walk on the arduous road of cultivation.

Particularly that moment of enlightenment, which also allowed Qing Shui to master the initial stages of the Solitary Rapid Fist. Everytime he thought of this, he would unconsciously extend his arms and start to practice the stances of the Solitary Rapid Fist. His fists when struck out were fast, quick, accurate, yet it was also clear and there was a fluidity in his motions that was not there before. This is the state of the heart necessary to execute the Solitary Rapid Fist! If not for the sudden flash of insight that allowed him to grasp the state of heart needed, even if he could manage to execute such powerful and flawless techniques, it would still not be fully complete.

As he slowly retract his arms, and wore his now dried clothes, a small feeling satisfaction filled his whole body. It was almost noon, feeling the wind blowing against his face and the heat of the high sun that shined upon the ground, Qing Shui decided to walk forward. This mountain was not far from the Qing Clan, and at the place Qing Shui was in, there was a naturally formed shelter. The shelter was not that tall, one would only need to walk about 200 meters to reach its peak.

At the summit, Qing Shui could see the farmlands far away, that patches of green fields seemed endless as it stretches on and on. The land of Qing Clan was almost 100 li huge, this discovery made Qing Shui startled. This world was just too huge.. even a mountain

village could be this large, then what about the nearby Hundred Miles City?

On the top of the mountain, there was a region infested with wildlife. Gigantic trees were all about and the chirps of birds and cries of unknown insects filled the air creating a cacophony of noises. Qing Shui sensed that this forested region was brimming with life! It was a suitable place to cultivate his hidden weapon techniques!

He nonchalantly picked up 2 small pebbles lying on the ground, closed his eyes and circulate the Qi in his body according to the principles of the Solitary Rapid Fist, together with the knowledge he gained regarding the appropriate amount of strength to use, the angles to aim and the techniques needed to execute it!

In the time it took to brew a cup of tea, Qing Shui became motionless, even his breathing was controlled almost to the point of silence. The sound of his heartbeat also grew softer and softer.

A small yellow bird landed near Qing Shui's side as it energetically bounced here and there, not treating Qing Shui as a source of danger. Qing Shui had faded into the background, becoming one with the surroundings!

——

A black bird as big as an eagle, with a wingspan of about 3m wide, glided through the air from far away, with vision as sharp as needles.

At this moment, the yellow bird near Qing Shui chirped noisily in fear and started to fly away in the direction away from the black

eagle. Apparently it has noticed that a predator was stalking it. As the black eagle flew nearer and nearer, Qing Shui eyes snapped open, revealing hints of intense concentration. With a flick of his hand, the pebble in his right hand flew through the air with speed akin to a burst of lightning, creating crackling sounds as it gained velocity.

“Pu!”

The eagle dropped dead without even having the time to utter its death cries. It was killed by a pebble that penetrated cleanly through its brain.

The sides of Qing Shui’s mouth, slightly curled into a smile.

“So this is the way to use hidden weapons.. how terrifying.” Qing Shui slowly walked downhill, advancing towards the corpse of the eagle.

The corpse of the eagle landed near a forested region at the western side of the mountain. The western region was the place where members of the Qing Clan hunted for food. It is exceedingly dangerous for one to enter without companions or without a high level of cultivation. This forest was also named Greenwood forest as characterised by the greenwood trees growing on the boundaries of the forest.

The Greenwood forest was off limits to anyone who had not cultivated to the realm of Martial Warrior, 7th Grade. Even if one had reached the 7th Grade, they would still not dare to traverse here alone nor belittle the danger of this forest.

“Hmmm, how dangerous can it be? I will just take a peek at the corpse of the giant eagle and come back.” Curiosity was burning in his heart as he carefully took measure of his surroundings.

Once he had determined that there was no danger nor anything suspicious, he slowly trekked down towards the corpse of the giant eagle.

AST: Chapter 12 – Demonic Beast, Emerges

Going up the mountain is easy but going down is difficult, uncertain if it was man made or formed naturally, the pathway down the mountain was very narrow, especially on the western side of the mountain.

Luckily the summit of this particular mountain was not very high, in addition, Qing Shui had tremendous confidence in the current strength of his body, thus, he forged ahead fearlessly. “Even if there’s danger, i can just call for backup. There shouldn’t be any wild beasts that dare to come here, after all it was relatively near the Qing Clan’s Mansion.” Qing Shui reasoned.

After being convinced by his own logical deductions, the caution in his heart slowly subsided as he skipped towards the entrance of the Greenwood forest.

No wonder people say that going up the mountain is easy but coming back down is difficult, Qing Shui could verify the truth of this words. He had already spent 30mins traveling but there was still 200m before he could reach the bottom of the mountain. Compared to when he climbed up the mountain, all the way to the peak, he had only spent 15mins.

With only 100m away prior to reaching the bottom of the mountain, Qing Shui could already see the corpse of the black eagle. It had landed near the boundaries of the Greenwood forest. Qing Shui cautiously paused and once again took measure of his surroundings, only after he was certain that nothing was out of the norm, did he begin to advance towards the corpse of the big eagle.

The wind from the mountains was comfortable without the overbearing heat of the summer breeze, nor the bone-chilling cold winds of winter. If this place existed in his previous world, it would surely be used for either a vacation resort or an elderly home.

Although Qing Shui had never been here before, he had heard of the many dire warnings the adults had cautioned and was very clear of the dangers existing in the Greenwood forest. Qing Shui composed himself, did a check of his surroundings and proceeded onwards guardedly. Despite so, he was half hoping that there would be a savage beast ambushing him so that he could test his current strength against it.

—

The eagle was dead beyond the shadow of a doubt, the pebble had actually penetrated cleanly through the brain of the bird.

Looking at his “masterpiece”, looking at the corpse of the big eagle, Qing Shui did not know what species did this bird belonged to. He just felt that it had many similarities with the eagles from his previous world, the only difference was that this “eagle” was much larger in size than any eagles that existed in his previous world. If he was still the trash from before, he would surely have been the one eaten by this eagle today. Envisioning that outcome, where he had prevailed, he tightly clutched the remaining pebble in his hand and felt a tiny bit of elation in his heart.

Confidence originated from strength. This described Qing Shui perfectly. Looking towards the future with a heart full of hope, it was as if he could peer through the misty swirls of time and look into the future. He wanted a life blessed with happiness, and this became his objective.

All of a sudden, Qing Shui felt a threatening glare targeted at his back. The feeling of being observed was so sharp, one must know that after he broke through the 2nd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui gained a terrifying surge in the level of his perceptiveness. Although Qing Shui could not be 100% sure of where the glare originated from, he could roughly sense the location and the distance between them.

“Towards the south, 30 degrees to the left, behind the greenwood tree whose width is roughly about the thickness of the size of 2 humans.” This was what Qing Shui could sense.. However, regarding that glare, he was unable to determine whether it was a beast or a human...

Qing Shui did not even move a muscle, his hands were clenched into fists, pointedly guarding against the area where he had sensed the gaze was. He did not dare to move about carelessly, or underestimate his enemy. He knew that if it was a wild beast, the distance of 30m was negligible, it could be crossed in an instant! Based on his current strength and the pebbles in clutched in his fists, Qing Shui hoped that he would be able to deal with the problem.. He did not know why but his intuition was warning him that the thing hidden in the trees was extremely powerful.

Time flowed on, the pebbles in Qing Shui's fist were already

drenched with sweat, he knew that he could not allow this to carry on, with distractions in his heart, it would be disastrous if the enemy suddenly launched an attack.

Under the setting sun, within the shadows casted by the trees in the forest, Qing Shui concentrated. He could see that the shadow of a beast shape head materializing. The shape vaguely resembled a wolf.. an extremely massive wolf.

Qing Shui was fairly certain of his guess, only wolves would be so cunning and patient to wait for the right time to ambush him

Energy infusing his body, Qing Shui wanted to bait the wolf out.

“Xiu!” Qing Shui called out, with hopes of distracting the wolf.

Not caring if his distraction succeeded, Qing Shui transferred the energy that he had gathered to the pebble in his left hand, flicking the stone out with a speed akin to a burst of lightning, targeting the shadow of the wolf head.

“Pa!” a wave of soil dislodged, forming a cloud of dust at the area of impact.

At the exact same moment, that huge shadow burst out, savagely surging forward.

Even though Qing Shui was prepared in his heart, he was still stunned by the gigantic creature in front of him. This was not

merely a big wolf... This was a golden direwolf! With a body of 3m long, and a height of 2m, its huge body appeared not to be affected by the laws of gravity as it was agile beyond belief. Its whole body was releasing a killing intent, and brimming with tyrannical might!

That pair of eyes was filled with madness, unexpectedly also carried a hint of caution. It waited no longer and pounced towards Qing Shui with the speed of the wind.

“This is a wolf? Isn’t it too big, with a body bigger than a buffalo, it would be pretty terrifying to be fight against it head on.” Qing Shui exclaimed. Thinking of the animal zoos in his past life, the tigers and lions who were the king of the animals back there would have been absolutely no match for this golden wolf.

Qing Shui was scared, after all this was the first time he was in a life or death situation, although he knew that his current body had substantial strength, his opponent weighs about 500 jin, and possessed terrifying speed and strength.

He retreated backwards, and subtly picked up a pebble from the ground, hiding it in his right hand, Qing Shui hoped that maybe by using the hidden weapon techniques, he could be able to surprise the wolf and kill it without fighting it head on.

In the face of intense danger, many thoughts flashed past Qing Shui’s mind. He could see his grandpa, his mother. He could also see his uncle training the 3rd generation disciples in the practice yard, yelling at them not to be frightened when they were sparring with each other.” This was it.. although he had never fought in a

life and death situation before, Qing Shui knew that he must be calm, he could not let the fear control him but must make use of the fear to increase the power of his strikes instead! Thinking of that, he hesitated no longer and executed the Solitary Rapid Fist while retreating backwards.

That bout of enlightenment previously had allowed Qing Shui to gain tremendous insights into the Solitary Rapid Fist, reaching the state of one with the fist. Contradictions arose in his heart, on one hand, he was afraid of the direwolf's might, but yet he wanted to test the insights gained by directly clashing with the golden direwolf head on!

“Bang, Bang, Bang!”

Qing Shui's nearly flawless execution of the Solitary Rapid Fist speedily contacted 3 times with the direwolf's 2 muscular front legs, he even took the chance while the direwolf was distracted to deliver a strike onto its head. Qing Shui broke apart the exchange frowning, his arms were actually numbed by the impact!

As the saying goes, [wolf = iron head, bronze tail, tofu back]. This moment, Qing Shui knew that the part about the iron head was true. However, the saying mentioned that wolves weaknesses was their weak back, this was not true in the case of this golden direwolf. Its back was as strong as thick as a water buffalo!

The gigantic golden direwolf also paused its attack momentarily to re-assess Qing Shui. It initially only appeared near this area because it wanted to eat the black eagle, never did the direwolf expect a human kid to appear in front of it, and even more

incredulous, that human kid actually gave it a foreboding sense of danger. Therefore it decided to ambush Qing Shui.

After the initial blows of exchange, Qing Shui no longer felt trepidation in his heart, alternatively, he actually felt like going all out to spar with the golden direwolf.

Clenching both his fist, the Ancient Strengthening Technique slowly started to activate, Qing Shui could feel that his energy was unrelentingly rising, that 3 strikes earlier executed by him in fear did not showcase his true strength! Now, after Qing Shui had calmed down, he decided to unleash his full strength and test out where in the blue blazes of satan's hairy toes did his true limits lie. After all, he could lose his life easily due to a moment of carelessness if he still held back.

Maybe, it was the battle intent in Qing Shui's eyes that infuriated the golden direwolf, it raised it's head high and howled, that howl encompasses the defiance of the heavens, emanating an tyrannical aura. It could be that the golden direwolf had acknowledged Qing Shui as a worthy opponent, following which, the direwolf assumed it's battle form and expanded 1 size bigger.

“RAWRRR!”

After unleashing a deafening roar, the golden direwolf lunged towards Qing Shui, it's huge body was akin to Mount. Tai, exerting tremendous pressure as it pounced over. The direwolf wrenched open its jaw that was filled with serrated canines, targeting to bite out Qing Shui's throat!

AST: Chapter 13 – Break Through to the 3rd layered Heavens!

At this moment, Qing Shui regained his composure, looking at the Golden Direwolf that was rapidly approaching him. His body that was brimming with energy, slightly shuddered as his right arm exploded forward with a burst of speed.

“Xiu!”

That pebble was targeted at the direwolf’s jaw region, created an extremely discordant sound as it soared through the air.

At the exact moment the pebble flew out, Qing Shui opt not to retreat but to advance instead, akin to a earthworm diving into the soil, Qing Shui crisscrossed both his hands and forcefully penetrated into the back of the direwolf.

“Kacha!”

“Aooooo!” the wolf howled in pain (what does the wolf says?)

The sound of bone breaking accompanied by a howl filled with excruciating pain rang out.

Using his elbows, Qing Shui pushed against the direwolf, borrowing the strength of that push to retreat a distance away. The heavily injured direwolf was crouching on its hind legs,

having the appearance of begging for mercy, staring fearfully at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was not as calm as he appeared to be, that strike just now, was too dangerous! If it was not him exploiting an opportunity, shooting out that pebble at the exact moment where the direwolf was fully concentrating on its attack, Qing Shui would not have had the opportunity to injure one of the direwolf's hind legs.

A wolf was cunning by nature, and as such, Qing Shui did not dare to be careless and underestimate his opponent. He was cautiously staring at the golden direwolf, while rivulets of sweat drenched his whole body, as he entered into a state of extremely intense focus.

At this moment, while staring at the golden direwolf that was injured heavily by him, Qing Shui could not help but to relax slightly. The slight lapse of concentration on his part gave rise a sense of stupefaction, causing his brain to enter into a state of daze. While in that state of daze, Qing Shui could not even stand straight on his feet.

Just as the waves of dizziness appeared, the worn and tattered jade pendant in front of his chest emitted waves of cooling energy, that quickly circulated in his whole body, sustaining Qing Shui. This feeling was analogous to when the parched ground of a sunbaked desert suddenly experienced a draught of rain.

The waves of cooling energy were unendingly circulating inside him, Qing Shui felt that his limbs were incapable of mustering any

might, even his body felt extremely relaxed, comfortable to the point of extreme laziness. Just when Qing Shui almost fell asleep, an exceedingly bizarre thing happened!

Qing Shui's cultivation in the Ancient Strengthening Technique was currently at the peak of the 2nd-layered Heavens. At this moment, in the calm and placid state of Qing Shui, the Ancient Strengthening unexpectedly broke through to the 3rd layer! Qing Shui could feel a threads of a warm and gentle Qi flow circulating his entire body, swiftly refining the toughness of his bones and energy channels. That strand of Qi after he broke through to the 3rd layer, had grown even thicker. Undergoing the refinement process, Qing Shui could feel that his energy channels had expanded and grown thicker as a result.

As his body gradually recovered his strength, Qing Shui realised that his strength had exceeded his previous limit by a huge margin. The difference in strength was incomprehensible! Qing Shui knew that the Ancient Strengthening Technique had a total of 9 layers. Every 3 layers represented a tier. 1-3 equates to low tier, 4-6 equates to mid tier, 7-9 equates to top tier. Now that he had cultivated to the 3rd layer, as long as he could break through to the 4th layer, Qing Shui didn't even dare to imagine the benefits. As long as he could step passed the doorway, there would be an entirely new realm in front of him. Even though he had barely broken through to the 3rd layer, Qing Shui was already anticipating breaking through to the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

As the Ancient Strengthening Technique deactivated, Qing Shui felt elation in his heart. No wonder cultivators fought for real, it was only through the battle experiences gained from life and death battles that will result in the benefits one received was far greater

than merely training alone.

Looking at the meekly cowering golden direwolf, its eyes darting around. Qing Shui could sense that the golden direwolf wanted to escape.

Qing Shui decided not to pursue, after all he, felt gratitude in his heart. If it was not for the golden direwolf today, he would not have broken through to the 3rd layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique so easily. Just when Qing Shui examined his energy channels and the ball of Qi inside his Dan Tian, he realised that the Blue Lotus Art had also reached the 3rd level! Qing Shui could vaguely feel that, after the integration of both the Blue Lotus Art and the Ancient Strengthening Technique, resulting in the convergence of blue and yellow Qi, there was a slight difference in the Blue Lotus Art that he was practicing as compared to the Qing Clan members. But it was difficult to pinpoint where exactly the difference lies.

He frowned “Then, won’t I become trash again?” Qing Shui didn’t even realise when the golden direwolf escaped as he was pondering over this question.

“The Ancient Strengthening Technique gets harder and harder to cultivate in as one progresses along, I don’t even know how long will it take for me to break through to the 4th layer, this also means that the progress of cultivation for Blue Lotus Art will stagnate too?” as Qing Shui was using one to complement the other.

“Forget it, anyway, I still have the Solitary Rapid Fist from

breaking through the 2nd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Oh ya! I wonder what new skill appeared in my mind after breaking through to the 3rd layered heavens! Qing Shui excitedly thought to himself.

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“Escaping techniques. This was the new skill he gained from breaking through to the 3rd layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. As the information of the escaping techniques flowed into his brains, Qing Shui was frustrated to the point of gnashing his teeth.

“Arghhh, what do i want escaping techniques at this moment for? Even if the reward is not more information about pill concoction, it should at least be another strengthening technique, he murmured listlessly. I don’t even know how long would it take for me to break into the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, when can I learn more about alchemy? His heart bled while thinking of the information about the various miraculous pills that existed in his brain. The Small Revitalizing Pellets, Glowing Buddha Seed, Dragon Martial Pill, and even the 9 Souls Reincarnation Pellet, ARGHHHHH”

What a pity, Qing Shui wanted to learn pill concoction techniques fast because there were a plethora of medicinal herbs in the Qing Clan, not to mention that Qing Yi was a medicinal herb merchant, the Qing Clan should also possess some of the more expensive and valuable herbs in their holdings. That is why Qing Shui couldn’t wait to be familiarised with the art of alchemy. If he could concoct some medicinal pills, it would greatly boost his

speed of cultivation, if there were no sources of external aid, based on his own calculations, it would take a long long time for him to break through into the 4th layered heavens. After all the Ancient Strengthening Technique is unfathomably powerful, almost to the point of defying the heavens but at the same time, there are a lot of restrictions. If he could concoct some of the miraculous pills existing in his memories, he could reap twice the benefits with only half the effort!

“So be it, escaping techniques are not too bad either, at least it is still better than nothing, after all it’s just that escaping techniques are not too suitable for me now, as I rather learn pill concoction. I should not complain so much, after all, the top-tiered escaping techniques are also extremely valuable, able to save one’s life in moments of danger.” Qing Shui knew that the escape techniques that had appeared in his mind could be considered one of the peak-tiered escaping techniques. Even among the top-tiered techniques, it could be ranked as among one of the first few.

Qing Shui closed his eyes as he begin to analyse the information about this escaping technique, he realised that this technique was more suitable for being a thief. The techniques recorded were complicated beyond belief, there were all sorts of complicated methods, designed for hiding in various terrains, all kinds of secret arts, design to blend in one’s body with the surroundings. All this resulted in Qing Shui gasping in amazement!

“hmmm, could this be used for escaping? Are they not used for hiding instead, what should I do if I was discovered?: Qing Shui mumbled to himself, he felt that there should be more to this technique.

Indeed, after Qing Shui read speedily read on, the technique could be segregated into 2 parts. The first part was about hiding techniques, while the 2nd part was about the escaping arts. The escaping arts recorded would also need the activation of the Ancient Strengthening Technique before it could be utilised.

The name of this technique was very duhhhh, it was simply called... Ghostly Step.

Qing Shui could care less regarding the name of the escaping art that appeared in his mind, because he had already managed to master a great deal of insights from the hidden weapons technique and the Solitary Rapid First. It could be said that Qing Shui was also eagerly anticipating the insights he would gain from the Ghostly Step.

However, merely trying to comprehend the basics of it, left Qing Shui with a headache. He knew that this technique was not so easily comprehended. If it was not due to that bout of enlightenment, he could not have mastered the hidden weapons technique so easily as well, achieving expertise akin to 10 years of practice within only a single day.

The escaping technique, Ghostly Step, was actually derived from the 9 Directional, 8 Trigram Calculations [1], a segment from the “Mystical Gates, Hidden Jia” [2] Divination Art. Qing Shui would need to learn the 9 Directional, 8 Trigram Calculations prior to even learning the basics of the Ghostly Step. All the information was already imprinted in his mind, but to fully digest and absorb it, he would still require a longer period of time.

Shaking his head to clear the waves of dizziness, Qing Shui departed from the Greenwood forest, he did not want to meet another demonic beast. Although he had obtained tremendous benefits from this encounter, if there were 2 golden direwolves, or even a group of them instead, the Greenwood forest would have been Qing Shui's burial ground.

“Ai, if that was the case, I couldn't even escape if I wanted to, It would be much safer after I mastered the Ghostly Step.

Another reason that induced Qing Shui to master the Ghostly Step was because it could be alternatively used for attacking purposes, when complemented with the Solitary Rapid Fist, it was possible to double or even triple the might unleashed!

When Qing Shui finally climbed back up to the summit of the mountain near the Qing Clan, the sun had already set. Leaving only twilight, the western skies radiated a red glow, beautifully painting over the skies.

Striking while the iron is hot, Qing Shui begin to cultivate the initial basics of the Ghostly Step this very minute. Although mastering the Ghostly Step would require the 9 Directional, 8 Trigram Calculations to fully comprehend the whole set of this technique, at the beginning, there was no need for it.

AST: Chapter 14 – Still a Trash

The first stage only required one to be fast, and as fast as possible; to the absolute limits of speed; fast to the stage where one could produce after-images. The Ghostly Step required knowledge of the 9 Directional, 8 Trigram Calculations and the Mystical Gates to confuse opponents, making it easier for Qing Shui to escape. If one wanted to cultivate the Ghostly Step to its absolute pinnacle, one must incorporate the knowledge from the calculations and use it together with the techniques from the Ghostly Steps.

Time flew by, just like a white steed flitting passed a gap, and 5 years had elapsed. Qing Shui was now 15 years old, and his body grew taller and stronger. There were hints of coldness in his beautiful eyes, disregarding the whole world as if nothing was worthy of his attention!

Once again, Qing Shui held the label of trash. The only thing different from the past, was that he could progress no further after breaking through to the 3rd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!

Qing Shui was not negative, he faced everything with a calm perspective, disregarding how others viewed him. 2 years ago, he had already cultivated to the peak of the 3rd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. After that, no matter what he did or how he cultivated, he could progress no further.. Not only that, even his cultivation of the Blue Lotus Art was also similarly stuck at a bottleneck, at the peak of the 3rd level.

Through these 5 years, Qing Shui had suffered

psychologically. Among the 3rd generation disciples, he had been the most dedicated when it came to cultivating. His expertise in the hidden weapons technique as well as the Solitary Rapid Fist had already soared to terrifying heights, with both reaching the large-success stage for both techniques.

Even for Ghostly Steps, Qing Shui had managed to cultivate it to the small-success stage. Although his expertise was only at the small success-stage, he had reached the stage of creating after-images, and could use it for advancing or retreating, and combining it with his hidden weapon techniques and Solitary Rapid Fist, this had allowed his might to soar to an unprecedented terrifying level

Currently in the Qing Clan, the eldest grandson Qing Zi had already managed to cultivate the Blue Lotus Art to the later phases of Martial Warrior, 7th Grade, almost reaching the peak of 7th Grade!

Qing You had already cultivated to the peak of Martial Warrior, 7th Grade and Qing Yang to the middle stages of Martial Warrior, 6th Grade. For the rest of the 3rd generation disciples who were aged 13-15 years old, most of them, including Qing Hu had reached the initial stages of Martial Warrior, 5th Grade.

In contrast, Qing Shui who was already 15 years old, had only managed to cultivate the Blue Lotus Art to the peak of Martial Warrior, 3rd Grade.

In the daily training sessions, Qing Shui could be considered one of the oldest 3rd generation disciples at the age of 15, and one of the weakest. Initially, at the daily training sessions, there were two 3rd generation disciples named Qing Hui and Qing Chuan whom were

older than Qing Shui by 1 year and 2 year respectively. However, in the previous year and this year, the 2 of them had already managed to break through to the Martial Warrior, 6th Stage at the age of 16.

Martial Warrior, 6th Grade was a dividing point in the Qing Clan. Those who had cultivated to the Martial Warrior, 6th Grade and not exceeding the age of 16 had the hopes of the whole clan placed upon their shoulders. So in the Qing Clan, as long as one could reach the required level before the age of 16, their status in the Qing Clan would also undergo a change. Even if they wanted to summon rain and wind [1], the whole of Qing Clan would also be supportive. Furthermore, these geniuses would be the ones responsible for protecting the businesses of Qing Clan in the future. Only when the core members of the Qing Clan increases in number and power, their business partners would not be so daring to override them.

For those who had reached the Martial Warrior, 6th Grade after the age of 16, they would be sent out to the city, to take charge of the Qing Clan's various businesses. Their cultivation base usually stagnates, as they could only cultivate during the lull periods. Most of the time, they would be too busy to cultivate.

Qing Shui was already 15 this year. If 1 more year passed, and he was still unable to breakthrough to Martial Warrior, 6th Grade, he would be sent out of the Qing Village.. Qing Shui knew that his Blue Lotus Art had long been integrated with the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Only when he had a breakthrough in the Ancient Strengthening Technique, would his Blue Lotus Art advanced. If someone wanted him to breakthrough to the 6th level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique in just a year of time, that person must have been either an idiot or was talking in his sleep.

The probability of Qing Shui being sent out of the Qing Village was almost set in stone.

Although Qing Shui was the grandson of Qing Luo, because of his earlier constitution, Qing Shui had never seen the world outside before. In the past, he would suffered breathing problems and palpitation of his heart at the slightest hint of strenuous activity, if he were to stay on in Qing Clan after the age of 16, no one would have anything to say about it. Everyone understood the underlying fact that he was a trash that could not cultivate! But now, it was different, not only his constitution was better, his cultivation had even reached the peak of Martial Warrior, 3rd Grade. Sending Qing Shui out was only something to be expected.

“Forget it, I shouldn’t brood on this so much, maybe I should just join the expedition to head outside of the Qing Village, who knows I may unexpectedly have the opportunity to break through then.” Qing Shui sighed listlessly, shaking his head.

After all, Qing Shui had long decided to aid Qing Yi in her business venture, concurrently also learning about the medical properties of the various herbs the Qing Clan had at their disposal. Qing Shui still held high hopes for himself, he still had yet to accomplish Qing Yi’s wishes, Qing Shui will never abandon himself to despair! Even though he could not achieve a breakthrough in the Ancient Strengthening Technique, but based on his current strength; the hidden weapon techniques, Solitary Rapid Fist, and a technique that even he himself feared to encounter against – the Ghostly Steps, would definitely make the hearts of his opponents tremble in fear. Truthfully speaking, Qing Shui had never held any of the 3rd generation disciples in regards, solely based on the strength of his body alone, without the aid of any martial techniques, he would already be able to suppress them sorely to the point where one could only call it trampling. The reason why he

did not do that was because he knew that it was not wise to reveal his cards this early in the game, after all he was still a teenager at the young age of 15.

At this moment,

“Shui gege.” Qing Shui heard a voice calling him from outside his court yard.

Just as the last syllable rang out, Qing Bei appeared in his courtyard. Now that Qing Bei was 13, with a small and exquisite face, and eyes that shone especially brightly, Qing Shui could see hints of beauty blossoming in the features of this little girl, Qing Bei’s body was in the initial stages of puberty. After all, she was 13, only 3 years more to be considered an adult.

Qing Bei was the youngest and only granddaughter in the Qing Clan. Qing Shui’s treatment of her was sincere and from his heart. Despite not being on good terms with the rest of the 3rd generation disciples, in his heart, Qing Shui fiercely doted on this little cousin of his.

“Xiao Bei, I’m here!” Qing Shui smiled slightly as he waved in welcome. Qing Bei could be considered the little genius of the Qing Clan, breaking through to the peak of Martial Warrior, 5th Grade at only the age of 13. The elders of the Qing Clan were generally very happy with the talent of Qing Bei, the only slight regret they had was Qing Bei is a female! In the end, no matter how talented she is, she would still have to be married off to outsiders. Even now, at the age of 13, there already were countless suitors pursuing her.

2 years ago, after Qing Shui cultivated to the peak of the 3rd layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he had been unable to break through further. His intuition was telling him, if he did not have another chance encounter; battle with his life on the line, or another bout of enlightenment, within the short term, it was unlikely for him to make a breakthrough! As he was temporarily unable to make any advancement in his cultivation base, during his spare time, he would teach the basics of the Solitary Rapid Fist to Qing Hu and Qing Bei! Qing Shui had begun teaching them about half a year ago. As the saying goes “He, who gain new knowledge by reviewing the old, is fit to be a teacher”! Among the 3rd generation disciples, Qing Hu and Qing Bei’s relation with Qing Shui could be considered as close as blood brothers/sisters.

For the rest of the 3rd generation disciples, they rarely gathered together. Especially for eldest grandson Qing Zi and genius Qing You, Qing Shui only had the chance to see them only a few times a year. It was the same for Qing Yang, Qing Hui and Qing Chuan. Moreover, once any of the 3rd generation disciples had managed to break through to the realm of Martial Warrior, 6th Grade, they would need to assiduously practice the martial techniques in addition to their own cultivation.

One could say that in the Qing Clan, the path to true power only starts after one had manage to reach the realm of a 6th Grade Martial Warrior. Other than this, at the end of every year, those who had broken through to the 6th Grade, would have to spar with their fellow 3rd generation disciples who broke through, as well as elders from the Qing Clan. For those with cultivation bases lower than the realm of Martial Warrior, 6th Grade, could only spectate below the stage.

Qing Hu and Qing Bei had already spent half a year learning the basics of the Solitary Rapid Fist with Qing Shui. Looking at them, Qing Shui finally realized how lucky he was back then, to have that fortuitous encounter which led to the bout of enlightenment. Now, after half a year had passed, Qing Hu had only memorised 1/3 of the 360 acupoints on the human body, but he was still far away from true comprehension. In a real fight, he only truly comprehended about the path of attacks towards the shoulders, the front of the chest and the head.

Qing Bei was slightly better than Qing Hu, after all, girls are more meticulous by nature, she had already managed to memorise the locations of all 360 acupoints of the human body, but during a fight, her display of her comprehension regarding the attacks of the Solitary Fist Technique was roughly on par with Qing Hu.

“You came alone? Where is Qing Hu?” Qing Shui curiously asked, as he did not see Qing Hu tagging along. For this past year, every single day without fail, around evening time, Qing Hu and Qing Bei would visit Qing Shui together and practiced the Solitary Rapid Fist.

“Qing Hu was injured by the Lan Yan`er from the Lan Clan, so he could not come today.” Anger and helplessness could be heard in her voice as Qing Bei broke down.

AST: Chapter 15 – Lan Clan's Lan Yan`Er

“Lan Yan`er?”

The name was familiar to Qing Shui, memories surged in his mind as he attempted to associate this name with reference to his recollections. A picture of a slender and beautiful young lady; a bright pair of eyes, with a elegant demeanour, adorned with a dainty mouth and dimples in her cheeks. A perfect picture of loveliness, akin to the budding beauty of a young rose, appeared in his mind.

Despite her looks, she was an inordinately proud person. The reason why Qing Shui found her name familiar was that, they were both 15 years old, yet one was a genius capable of engendering envy while the other was known by everyone in the region to be a trash. Qing Shui had only met her by chance, and had remembered her because of her reputation. She was reputed to be one of the top few heaven defying geniuses in the region. Her talent was only preceded by Qing Clan's genius, Qing You! And thus, she was the pride of the Lan Clan.

The Lan Clan is one of the biggest clans in the Qing Village, it could be considered the next largest clan, second only to the Qing Clan. In terms of talent, the 3rd generations of the Lan Clan was even a cut higher when compared to the Qing Clan. After all, the Qing Clan don't really have that much 3rd generation disciples.

The Lan Clan had always wanted to replace the Qing Clan as Village's protector, changing the name of the village to the Lan Village, so they spared no efforts to painstakingly nurture their 3rd

generation disciples because they were the one who carried the hopes and ambitions of their clan.

“Bei Bei, is Qing Hu’s injuries very grievous?” Qing Shui asked concernedly, with a frantic tone in his voice.

“Not that greivous.. he only suffered external injuries; bruises to his face and body. After he lost the fight, he didn’t dare to show his face and chose to hide in his room to avoid embarrassment.” Qing Bei giggled slightly as she thought of Qing Hu’s actions.

“Still laughing? Why are you laughing?” Qing Shui questioned, in reality, after ascertaining the situation, Qing Shui also felt it was kinda funny, hiding to avoid embarrassment because he got beaten up.. However, losing to Lan Yan`er could still be forgiven, as it was somewhat expected.

Qing Bei suppressed her laughter, her exquisite face revealed an expression of abashedness, this made Qing Shui felt slightly confused but he soon knew the reason why.

“Brother said he had fallen in love with Lan Yan`er” Qing Bei groaned. Qing Shui felt very hilarious at the way this little cutie sighed. After all, in Kyushu, people tend to mature earlier, at 16, one could be considered an adult, and could marry and give birth.

“Because he got beaten up, he fell in love?” Qing Shui was slightly bewildered.

“Hmm, it seems that Qing Hu still have not got over that little brat?” Qing Shui knitted his brow and mused lightly.

This time round, it was Qing Bei’s turn to be bewildered.

“Shui gege, you are the same age as Lan Yan`er, why do you call her little brat? It feels weird, as if you were older than her.” Qing Bei look at the always indifferent Qing Shui as she asked.

After his body transformation, Qing Shui’s personality also underwent a huge change, after all, he was an adult, only at that time his body frame was small. It was only after he could cultivate the Ancient Strengthening Technique that he stopped being so despondent. So from young, the Qing Shui that Qing Bei knew had always been indifferent and confident. At the very least, this was what Qing Bei knew of Qing Shui’s personality.

After know that this matter was not so serious, all the tension palpably eased from Qing Shui and he breathed a sigh of relief. Qing Shui knew long ago that Qing Hu was in love with Lan Yan`er, As a descendant of a large and luxurious clan, despite the fact that Qing Hu was only 14, he already knew something about the feelings between man & woman, and the passion experienced when shared in joint union.

Although Qing Hu was young, he had a very definite mindset and knew what he wanted, when he first started to court Lan Yan`er, he was rejected many times. After all, a girl matures slightly earlier and plus the fact that she was older than Qing Hu by a year. In Lan Yan`er eyes, Qing Hu was only a little kid, it was only after she got pestered almost to the point of insanity, she decided to give Qing

Hu an ultimatum.

“As long as you can defeat me before I got married, I would marry you, with no regrets.”

Qing Hu didn't really think so much about it, in his heart, even if he could not defeat this woman, he still wanted to marry her, so he agreed and brought up the idea of a spar, which resulted in him getting beaten up black and blue all over his face and body. After all, the differences in the level of cultivations could not be made equal with the burning passion of love!

That was the first time Qing Hu got beaten up by Lan Yan`er, and also the first time, when Qing Shui knew of her existence. Compared to Qing Hu, Lan Yan`er was carrying the reputation and name of the Lan Clan's heaven defying genius, Qing Hu knew that marrying her was even more difficult than ascending the heavens!

This incident was half a year ago.

After which, in this half year, Qing Hu and Qing Bei had begun to learn the basics of the Solitary Rapid Fist from Qing Shui, Qing Shui could sense that within the myriad stances of the Solitary Rapid Fist, there was traces of Tai-chi. The Solitary Rapid Fist specialised in extreme close combat, after all, there were plenty of weaknesses and acupoints on the human body, the truth behind the Solitary Rapid Fist is to aim for the weak points of the target and achieving death with a single strike.

“Brother went to find her for a spar voluntarily, but he still lost.”

Qing Bei mentioned helplessly

How not to lose? One was at the realm of Martial Warrior, 5th Grade versus the other at Martial Warrior, 7th Grade. Qing Shui shook his head and grinned.

“Shui gege, the Solitary Rapid Fist that you taught us was extremely formidable, it’s just that the cultivation level of my brother was too low when compared to her, if he was at the 7th Grade as well, he could have effortlessly defeated Lan Yan`er.

“Oh, why do you say that?” Qing Shui excitedly asked. Qing Shui knew that the martial techniques of Kyushu could be divided into 4 realms; Hou Tian, Xian Tian, Legendary, Divine. Each of these 4 realms could be further classified into 4 grades; Huang < Mystic < Earth < Heaven!

Qing Shui had once heard Qing Yi mentioned that the Blue Lotus Art of the Qing Clan could be classified as a Hou Tian Realm, Heaven Grade technique, while the Lan Clan’s family technique, Ice Sealed Swordplay could be classified as a Hou Tian Realm, Earth Grade technique. Then... what about his own Ancient Strengthening Technique? What realm and grade does it belong to? Qing Shui didn’t know..

Qing Shui only had the chance to use the Solitary Rapid Fist against the golden direwolf, he had not fought with a human being yet, so naturally, after he heard Qing Hu could use the Solitary Rapid Fist which he learnt only for half a year to fight against an opponent of 2 grades higher, Qing Shui was very engrossed in finding out all the details of the fight.

“Initially, Lan Yan`er did not even held my brother in any regard, I could see that she purposely held back, only utilising the strength of the 5th Grade to fight against my brother on equal grounds. May be in her mind, fighting against someone who did not know any martial techniques and only recently broke through to the Martial Warrior, 5th Grade, there was no need for her to reveal her true strength. Using her fingers in place of her sword, she grossly underestimated the battle strength of Qing Hu and almost suffered defeat in 3 moves. She was forced to retreat and at that point, her whole of her arm was numbed.

After listening to Qing Bei, Qing Shui could deduced that Qing Hu had targeted Lan Yan`er’s You Chi acupoint [1], located on her arm.

“After which, Lan Yan`er dare not underestimate my brother any longer, she immediately unleashed her true strength and used a martial technique that was obviously a much higher grade than Qing Hu’s Solitary Rapid Fist. My brother could only manage to block a few of her moves, eventually ending in his defeat!” Qing Bei said.

“This may not be a bad thing, this incident would temper Qing Hu’s state of heart, possibly, this Lan Yan`er would end up being the motivation behind Qing Hu’s desire to be an expert.

Qing Shui gently patted his forehead as he thought about his future. He was not bothered by the Lan Clan in the least, if he could not even handle a single Lan Clan, how would he even manage to walk out of this remote region, how would he even

challenge the top experts of the Kyushu world? How would he be able to stand tall on his feet when facing those established sects and clans with deep roots and backing of an entire millennium?

If he wanted to seek redress for Qing Yi, at the very least, Qing Shui would definitely need to clash with one of those established clans!

AST: Chapter 16 – Revered Professions – I

Wanna be an Alchemist

If he wanted to seek redress for Qing Yi, at the very least, he would definitely need to clash with one of those established clans!

Qing Shui went with Qing Bei to visit Qing Hu, other than the external injuries, there wasn't anything to be concerned about, his injuries should heal in a day or two! Qing Hai's manor was similar to the manor of Qing Yi, they are both located inside of the Qing Clan's massive courtyard. The environment was pretty good in this place with picturesque scenery.

The rooms are bright and spacious, though the design was simple and somewhat crude. After all, the Qing Clan frowned upon the excessive spending on things that are unneeded for cultivation. The tables and chair were made of peachwood; the chairs were all taishi armchairs [1] and the tables were all 8-immortal tables [2], Qing Hu was unwilling leave the basement, let alone coming out to the living room or even going out of his manor, he did not want anyone to see his swollen face!

“Qing Shui, come taste the tea I brewed for you!” Qing Hai's wife, Song Yan warmly invited.

“Auntie, there is no need to trouble yourself!” Qing Shui said as he glanced at his auntie Song Yan. Qing Shui felt that, Song Yan was the most beautiful in the Qing Clan after Qing Yi. Long flowing hair tied up in a bun, with a lovely oval egg-shaped face, fair skinned with polished features and a slender waist with gigantic twin peaks and a well rounded bottom. Song Yan actually

looked younger than her age! Now that Qing Shui was already 30+ after adding both his age in this world and his previous world, he did not feel the raging hormones of most teens and had no burning desires to bed woman. However, mature and charming ladies like Song Yan could still set his heart aflutter.

“Was he the MILF[3] hunter from the legends?

“Qing Hu this child can be quite troublesome, he must not fall so deeply in the river of love and end up unable to extricate himself from it, Lan Yan`er is already betrothed to the son of the Heavenly River City’s City Lord! Although her status will only be a concubine, if they knew that Qing Hu still had not given up, this matter would be sure to bring trouble to the Qing Clan! It is really vexing.”

Qing Shui heard Qing Hai sighed depressedly, he too felt that this matter was somewhat worrisome. With Qing Hu’s personality, once he had decided on a target, his focus and objective would never change.

“4th Aunt, Heavenly River City, is it far from here?” Regarding the places on the continent of Kyu Shu, Qing Shui knew very little of the world outside the mountainous region where the Qing Village was located.

The Hundred Miles City was a small city located nearby the Qing Village. Because the Hundred Miles City was actually the smallest city located in the Cang Lang Country, the name of the city was a misconception, it refers to the distance between the Qing Village and the Hundred Miles City. Qing Shui had once heard Qing Yi said

that the Hundred Miles City actually had a circumference of about a 1000 Li. [4]

There was another assumption in the Qing Village. People said that the Hundred Miles City only had a circumference of a 100 miles, 100 years ago. It was only after the development of these 100 years that it had the scale of what it had now. That was why, initially, the city was named the Hundred Miles City.

“In this world, there are 9 continents. Each continent have 81 countries, and each country have 81 cities. Cang Lang Country belongs to the Northwest continent named the Green Cloud continent. The Hundred Miles City was the smallest city, situated at the western region of the Green Cloud Continent. There was absolutely no comparison between the Hundred Miles City and the Heavenly River City. The Heavenly River City had a circumference of over 10,000 Li, indicators of their prosperity could be found everywhere. Rumour has it that there were even Xian Tian lifeforms there.” stated Song Yan.

“Xian Tian? Isn't that the realm that grandpa could not break through to? Grandpa said that the cultivators at the Xian Tian Realm possessed power beyond our comprehension!”

“Right, that was the realm that your grandpa had mentioned, there are no weaklings among those that had broken through to the Xian Tian Realm, each of them are true powerhouses of our continent! In this continent, other than cultivators, there are also beast tamers. Beast tamers usually depend on the demonic beasts they tamed to do battle. It could be said that an expert beast tamer was even more terrifying than cultivators.”

“Hahaha, anyway, the topic had gotten out of point!” Qing Hai laughed somewhat awkwardly. He was laughing at himself for being too naggy.

“No, no, I want to know more about the beast tamers, how do they subdue the demonic beasts? What are demonic beasts?” Curiosity was burning in Qing Shui’s heart. After all the rumours of beast tamers which he heard from the grapevine was probably not as accurate as the information from his 4th uncle, Qing Hai.

“Normally, only after a beast lived and cultivated for more than 500 years, would we call them demonic beasts. All demonic beasts have formed a demonic core inside their body and had strength on the level of Xian Tian lifeforms.” Qing Hai said, with traces of remembrance flashing in his eyes, it was as though he had seen one up close or participated in a fight with one before.

“Basically, a beast tamer that does not have a contracted demonic beast, cannot be considered a real beast tamer at all. After all, beast tamers could only use a specialised sealing technique to form a contract only after a wild beast has evolved into a demonic beast.

After the evolution, all demonic beast will gain intelligence, and especially for those demonic beasts that had cultivated over 1000 years; they can be even smarter and more cunning than humans! Therefore, the requirements for one to become a beast tamer are just too harsh, not only must one be strong enough to contend against the demonic beasts, they must also be proficient in those cryptic incantations, restrictions and sealing techniques!” Qing Hai explained, as he sat on the Taishi Armchair and slowly sipped his

tea.

The cultivation realms before Xian Tian are known as Martial Student, Martial Warrior, Martial General and Martial Commander. The realms from Martial Student to martial Commander is also known as the Hou Tian Stage. The doorway to the Xian Tian Realm could be considered a natural moat, blocking almost all but a selected few who are allowed to step through it. Just like Qing Luo, who had been stuck at the realm of Martial Commander, 10th Grade for many years, yet still unable to break through the last bottle neck..

In general, the Qing Clan's 3rd generation disciples had all cultivated to the Martial Warrior Realm, the 2nd generation disciples, at the very least had cultivated to the Martial General Realm. Only Qing Luo was at the 10th Grade of the Martial Commander Realm. He was only 1 step away from breaching the doorway to the Xian Tian realm! But this single step... the inability to take the last step, had proved to be the bane of many cultivators, and was the biggest regret of their entire lives.

Although the Blue Lotus Art could be considered a Hou Tian level technique, it was at the pinnacle of all Hou Tian techniques, with a rating of the Heaven Grade. After all, Xian Tian level techniques are akin to the stars in the skies, the essence and concepts behind it are too unfathomable for most people to grasp, so a Hou Tian level technique with a Heaven Grade could be considered as extremely valuable! Majority of the cultivators in the Kyushu world could only employ Hou Tian level techniques. Only those from very established sects or big clans with deep roots would have the possibility to possess Xian Tian level techniques or higher; even the rumoured Legendary level and God level techniques!

Cultivating the Blue Lotus Art would allow one to reach the peak of Hou Tian. Similar to Qing Luo, with a cultivation realm of the Martial Commander, 10th Grade. As long as he could step inside the Xian Tian realm, his life force would be more than doubled, from 200 years to 500 years. But Xian Tian lifeforms.... even in a extremely large city, the numbers of Xian Tian cultivators could be counted on 1 hand, how could there be an existence like that in the Qing Village? Over here, including the Hundred Miles City, one could already be considered an expert once their cultivation had reached the peak of Hou Tian.

Qing Shui got all this information from Qing Hai, and discovered the many benefits of reaching the Xian Tian Realm. Just solely based on the fact that a Xian Tian cultivator could live up to 500 years, already proved to be an extremely attractive carrot, inspiring all cultivators of the Hou Tian stages to push forward to break through.

Qing Shui did not know what exactly was his level of cultivation, after all, the Blue Lotus Art he practiced was different from the rest of the clan. The strongest 3rd generation disciples of the Qing Clan so far was Qing You and Qing Zi, both who had broken through to the 7th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm.

Martial students could not be considered as cultivators, only those who had reached the realm of Martial Warriors could be considered as one. Qing Clan's 3rd generation disciples had all broken through to the Martial Warrior Realm, so when someone was said to have broken through to the 6 Layer, it actually means that they have broken through to the realm of Martial Warrior, 6th Grade.

Even though the Blue Lotus Art was said to be a Hou Tian level technique, there still exists a miniscule amount of probability for a cultivator to break through to the Xian Tian Realm. The percentage of successfully breaking through was only about 1% success rate. After all, the Blue Lotus Art was a Heaven Grade, Hou Tian Realm technique, The rest of Hou Tian level techniques; Earth Grade, Mystic Grade and Huang Grade are all considered rubbish in front of it. The probability to breakthrough to the Xian Tian Realm does still exists, with a success rate of less than 0.01%.. Other than the rogue cultivators, unaffiliated with any clans or sects, there were no other cultivators willing to cultivate those rubbish techniques to its peak with its low success rate of breaking through.

Although there were plenty of cultivators, there were plenty of other ways to survive in this world. The one with the most advantages were the beast tamers, the alchemists and the medical doctors.

There are also a lot of people who chose to be architects, cooks, tailors and blacksmiths but this professions were not as revered as the beast tamers, alchemists and doctors.

As the proverb states “every profession would produce a master, as long as you put in enough love and diligence in your work” The people of this world would still need to eat, need weapons to fight with, will fall sick and get injured..

So it doesn't matter which profession one was in, as long as you were the absolute best in that profession, riches, woman and

respect will come to you too.

Especially for the alchemists, they are the most revered profession in this world. Alchemists could concoct the Yuan Replenishing Pellet to block pain and aid in recovery, or the legendary Dragon Martial Pill which raise the chances of breaking into Xian Tian Realm by 50%!

Any alchemists, no matter if they are high or low ranked, even if they failed a thousand times in pill concoction, they would still be revered and venerated by the masses! Pill concoction also requires luck. Who knows... that lowly ranked alchemist which you snubbed yesterday may produce an immortal-grade elixir today.

All of this information was told to Qing Shui, by his 4th uncle Qing Hai and his wife Song Yan. Qing Shui was extremely interested in the Xian Tian Realm and the alchemist profession. He decided that one day, he too would walk down the path of alchemy, to be revered and venerated in the whole of Kyushu!

AST: Chapter 17 – The Eldest Grandson of Qing Clan

Although he knew that the path he wanted to walk on was a long and arduous one, Qing Shui had the utmost confidence in himself.

“15 years.. It has been 15 years since he was born in the Qing Village, maybe it was time to explore the world of Kyushu. Reaching the peak of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui could feel that the current might he was capable of exerting, was more than 10,000 jin just based on his bodily strength alone. In addition to that, with his hidden weapon techniques as well as the incredulous state of his body, he had no doubts that he was more than competent enough to protect himself!” Qing Shui deeply pondered. If he don’t experience the trials of the world, and face real danger through life and death situations, he would not be able to temper himself. The bottleneck of the peak of 3rd layer Ancient Strengthening Technique, would be only be more difficult to break through.

“Mother should be back in a few days, I will say my goodbyes to her then,” Qing Shui decided, certain that his choice to explore the world outside the Qing Village was the right one.

“Why do those people in the legends who transcended dimensions always have godly weapons or storage rings but I don’t even have a single thing (-_-). The main characters of those legends were always geniuses but here I am, a living example of one who had transcended dimensions, and yet I am only trash..” Despite the fact that Qing Shui had never acknowledged himself as a trash, he had no choice but to admit it now.

“It is so inconvenient to carry things along without a storage ring, but at very least, I still possess the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Thanks to that, the toughness of my body has already reached an inconceivable state, capable of exerting a force of more than 10,000 jin. In addition, my strength is now roughly equivalent to the realm of Martial Warrior, 7th Grade, mwehehe. Through my observations for the past few years, I dare say that I could send most of the 3rd generation disciples sprawling on the ground with injuries that would take them 2 weeks to a month to recover with only a single punch!” Qing Shui self-assuredly stated.

“In the face of absolute strength, all strategies are meaningless. Using strength to counter against the intricacies of techniques, and not to mention that the Solidary Rapid Fist most assuredly is a top tier martial technique, if I could execute the stances with my 10,000 jin level of force, attacking the weaknesses and acupoints of my opponents, I would undoubtedly leave them crippled with every move i make.” Qing Shui sneered.

Qing Shui was mumbling to himself after he departed from Qing Hu’s residence. He was extremely conceited as he thought of the many things he had learnt. However, Qing Shui had matured from before, and was able to control his ego.

“I must not be arrogant and overestimate myself, the world is so large, the only way to move forward on the path of cultivation is constant improvement!” Qing Shui silently reminded himself.

Attaining the peak of the 3rd layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique felt great, but being unable to breakthrough made Qing

Shui feel helpless. In his heart, he longed for the might that he would be able to wield at the 4th layer. After all, the 4th layer represented the crossing into another realm. Entering the 4th layer meant crossing the threshold of the mid tier for the Ancient Strengthening Technique. By then his body and strength would probably be further refined by an insane margin. Qing Shui was also desirous of the skills he would unlock at the 4th layered heavens of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

“Ai, Qing Shui, it’s you!”. A voice called out his name just as he was in the middle of his self-reflection.

Raising his head, Qing Shui realised that it was the eldest grandson of the Qing Clan, Qing Zi, who had called out to him. Qing Zi was very amiable by nature, although he rarely interacted with Qing Shui. However, each time they interacted, Qing Zi was quite friendly to him.

Qing Zi was 25 this year, with a upright appearance, he was also extremely big sized, with the back of a tiger and the waist of a bear, giving the appearance of a dauntless behemoth..

“Brother Qing Zi, how did you manage to find the time to come here today?” Qing Shui felt that it was a bit weird for Qing Zi to be out here today. After all for those disciples of the 3rd generation who had broken through to Martial Warrior, 6th Grade were all busily spending their time honing their martial techniques.

“keke, can’t i just take a breather after making a breakthrough?” Qing Zi scratched his head and said somewhat straightforwardly. Looking at the comical actions of Qing Zi, Qing Shui felt the

distance between them shortened. After all, their difference in age was not too big, there would still be topics of interest for discussion between them.

“Ah, another breakthrough? Congratulations to brother Qing Zi!” Qing Shui happily congratulated Qing Zi. Qing Shui knew that if it was some other 3rd generation disciple making the same statement, there will bound to be hints of mockery hidden within, silently and sarcastically hinting to Qing Shui that he was nothing but trash. But Qing Zi was different. He was known for his forthrightness, he also found Qing Shui to be a straightforward person so they actually got along well together. If Qing Zi exists in Qing Shui’s previous world, he would be known as the fool that is easy to trick.

Qing Zi smiled deprecatingly, as if the breakthrough occurred only through luck and not his own efforts..

“Qing Shui, you must work hard too! Let me know if you need any help, I would do my best to help you.” Qing Zi said simply. Just from these simple words, Qing Shui could feel the sincerity in Qing Zi’s heart.

“I will, don’t worry about me, maybe in the future, I would be even more powerful than you, you won’t be upset right!” Qing Shui joked with Qing Zi. It sounded like a joke but at the same time, Qing Shui was partially serious about the question too.

:I believe you would be able to achieve it. If you managed to surpass me, I will be happy for you. The stronger you are, the more happy I would be!” Qing Zi laughed as he patted Qing Shui on his

shoulder.

“Why? Why would you be happy if i’m stronger than you?” Qing Shui curiously asked. He knew that especially in the larger clans, the competition within the clan members was very intense. After all, the strongest disciple in that generation had the hope that they would become the clan head one day..

Nevertheless, the tail of a phoenix cannot be comparable to the head of a chicken! One would rather be the head of a small clan as compared to being a retainer of a large clan.

Qing Shui asking this was perfectly normal, Qing Zi, after his current breakthrough was the strongest within the Qing Clan’s 3rd generation disciples. At least, it appeared so on the surface. He was the one with the highest possibility to be the Clan Head! Furthermore, although Qing Zi was honest and straightforward by nature, he had the ability to see far and think ahead, and knowing the intelligence of Qing Luo, Qing Shui could deduce that it was just a matter of sooner or later, the position of the Clan Head would be given to Qing Zi.

“Because simply.. we are one family, if one day, you managed to break into the Xian Tian Realm, you would be the pride of our family, how would i be upset by it? After all, the one breaking through to the Xian Tian realm is my very own cousin” Qing Zi said forthrightly.

Qing Shui did not know if Qing Zi was saying this honestly or was it because he was an idiot. But still, he felt really happy to have Qing Zi as someone he could count on.

Qing Shui and Qing Zi chatted as they walked alongside each other.

“Brother Qing Zi, are you going outside the Qing Village?” Qing Shui asked nonchalantly.

Qing Zi was not startled by Qing Shui’s question. He scratched his head and smiled, “The furthest I have ever been to was the Hundred Miles City, it was way more prosperous and developed than our Qing Village in this remote region.”

“Brother Qing Zi, have you thought of leaving to see the world outside before? A world filled with colour and excitement, hopes and dreams of young men painting the skies with their radiance.” Qing Shui had always assiduously focus on his cultivation and had never stepped out of the Qing Village before. He had not even been to the Hundred Miles City; colours of pink tinged his cheeks as he thought ruefully. Although airplanes and cars don’t exist in this world, there were other means of transportation like horse riding. Travelling to Hundred Miles City would only need to take 2 hours by horseback.

“I heard Grandpa state that the world outside is filled with danger, betrayal of your companions could come any moment, you can only trust yourself. If you had not achieved a certain level of strength, it would be better to stay in the Qing Clan, rather than going out to throw your life away.” Qing Zi stated sombrely, mistiness filling his eyes.

From the misty look in Qing Zi eyes, it could be seen that he too, longed to make his standing in the world outside of Qing Village. Which youth was not filled with dreams? One day to become an expert, travelling through the continent with ease and possessing a name that would resound across generations!

“There would definitely be a day, when we have a foothold in the world of cultivation, we would be like lords and kings looking down on this piece of land with disdain” Qing Shui resolutely said with hints of coldness flashing past his eyes.

Qing Zi glanced at Qing Shui, shocked. He never thought that the trash Qing Shui would have the gall to utter such words.

At this moment, Qing Shui gave Qing Zi an unfathomable sensation, emitting a deep and immeasurable feeling. Qing Zi actually felt inadequate in front of Qing Shui! Strange.....

AST: Chapter 18 – Ravishing Beauty

“Could he really stand on the summit of Kyushu one day?” Qing Zi mumbled, he was completely dumbfounded.. That feeling he got from Qing Shui.....

Qing Zi shook his head, trying to clear away the unsettling feeling slowly creeping into his heart. How could he even imagine that such an illogical thing would happen? After all, it was known that Qing Shui was born with a weak constitution. It would be amazing enough if he could already cultivate, but to step onto the peak of this world? Highly improbable..

Looking at Qing Shui who was emitting an air of certainty, Qing Zi could feel that Qing Shui was special. He was one of a kind, different from the majority of the 3rd generation disciples. Especially when looking at that pair of beautiful eyes, Qing Zi could see traces of coldness, disregard and competitiveness hidden within them.

The two of them were standing on the summit of a small mountain near the Qing Village. Qing Shui was enjoying the beauty of nature, the air was permeated with so much Spiritual Qi that even the normal humans who did not cultivate would be able to live to 150 years old in this world.

Standing on the summit not only allowed one to have unobstructed vision; the ability to see far across the distance without hindrance, it also enabled the one standing at the top to emanate a sense of heroism; like a chosen one, looking down upon the masses.

“No wonder all humans want to be admired by others, standing at the top of humanity, overlooking the entire world.”

Qing Shui and Qing Zi nonchalantly began to chat about matters of no importance, discussing the strained relationship between the 3rd generation disciples. Although the Qing Clan was the largest and most powerful clan in this mountain filled region, their influences and authority only stretched so far.. They were not even comparable to the large clans residing inside Hundred Miles City. If it wasn't for Qing Luo who had cultivated to the peak of Hou Tian Realm, those large clans would probably not even bother to have the slightest bit of interacting with the Qing Clan.

After all, those large clans residing in Hundred Miles City all had deep roots and a rich history spanning about a 1000 years; their connections with various powers and reputations were also not something that could be compared to the puny Qing Clan. Luckily, the Qing Clan possessed a unique inheritary cultivation technique. Thus, despite not having a large amount of people, the Qing Clan could still stand their ground.

Just as Qing Shui's mind was wandering, thinking about all the things he learned today, he heard footsteps approach him. Turning his head he spotted Qing Bei running towards him.

“Qing Zi gege, Shui gege, there are visitors arriving. Grandpa wants you to go back now.” Qing Bei said with almost no breath, exhaustion was clearly painted all over her face.

“Visitors? Where are they from?” Qing Zi’s brow slightly creased as he asked.

This expression of Qing Zi only lasted for a second before it changed back to his normal amiable look. This action of his made Qing Shui tense slightly, the normally honest looking Qing Zi actually had such a expression on his face? It appears that Qing Zi was not as simple as he looked.

“I am not too certain, but I heard that the visitors were from Hundred Miles City.” Qing Bei blinked her eyes innocently.

“Hundred Miles City!” Qing Shui exclaimed.

The name of this city was extremely familiar to him, Qing Shui even knew the names of some of the large clans residing within Hundred Miles City. After all, Qing Yi was the one in charge of the Qing Clan’s medicinal herbs business in Hundred Miles City.

“Qing Shui, Qing Bei, let’s go.” Qing Zi started to run back in the direction of the Qing Village after he shouted. The posture of each of his steps emanated the air of a dragon and a tiger.

“It appears that I was right, the eldest grandson of the 3rd generation was not as simple as he looked!” Qing Shui was deep in thoughts as he began to slowly run back towards the village, but after thinking about it, it made sense. If Qing Zi was as honest as he looked, there was no way that he could be the next successor of the Qing Clan.

Currently, within the 3rd generation disciples, Qing Zi was undoubtedly the strongest. Qing Shui was an exception, after all, he had not really exhibited his full strength yet.

Just as the 3 of them arrived at the entrance of the Qing Mansion, they saw a troop of majestic horses tied up near a post. One of the horses was completely red in colour, with a body length about 4m and a height of 2m, it exuding a majestic presence. The bristles on this horse were thick, but extremely smooth to the touch. Brawny, Majestic, Vigorous. It was as though there was a divine spirit in this fiery-red horse, as it was capable of emanating a pressure far beyond that of a normal war horse.

An expression of awe appeared on Qing Shui face as he observed the horse in front of him, this horse definitely belonged to one of the large clans in Hundred Miles City. Qing Shui had the feeling that the fiery-red horse in front of him had a strength that could easily allow it to trample over lions and tigers.

Although Qing Shui had not seen many horses or wild beasts during the 15 years he's spent in the Qing Village, he knew that the abundance of spiritual Qi in the air could allow animals to grow bigger compared to the animals of his previous world. Not only wild beasts, even domestic animals like dogs and pigs could grow to become 1 size bigger than in his previous world!

Qing Shui was not in awe because of the size of the horse, but because of the aura it exuded! With its head held high, akin to an emperor gazing at his subjects, just the aura emanating from it alone was sufficient to daunt the other horses surrounding it.

“All journeys undertaken while mounting this horse, would undoubtedly only require half the time compared to the other mounts!”

“En, the bones are solid and broad, with muscular forelegs and hind legs. Mounting it on a journey would be like stepping on clouds, the speed at which it gallops would be so fast that not even the earth would be disturbed” Qing Zi touched his chin and mumbled nonchalantly while admiring the horse.

“Brother Qing Zi is an expert on horses!?” Qing Bei asked.

Qing Zi shook his head “Nope, I only overheard some people discussing traits of good horses before, but they all pale in comparison to this fiery-red horse that is currently in front of me.”

Laughing as he ended the conversation, Qing Zi took the lead as they entered the Qing Mansion’s Courtyard

Qing Shui recalled some of the history books he read in his previous life. “Emperor Wen once offered a horse of the snow-lion species, capable of traveling a thousand li, to appease the anger of the mongolians.”

“This fiery-red horse should also have the bloodline of a lion.” Qing Shui deduced.

Seeing that Qing Zi and Qing Bei had already entered the courtyard, the hint of a smile appeared on his face. Seems like the

fun time are beginning hehehhee.

“Hey red horse, looking at your haughty and arrogant demeanor really pisses me off, your father, me, is definitely going to make you submit.” Qing Shui extended his hands, wanting to touch the red horse’s mane.

Just when his hand had extended to about 1cm away from the mane, the fiery red horse snorted, as if it was warning Qing Shui of the consequences and also giving off the appearance of looking down on him.

“Oh, how dare you be so stubborn you piece of shit!” Qing Shui couldn’t control himself anymore and vulgarities started spewing from his mouth. If this sight was witnessed by others, they would definitely be surprised that profanities actually emerged from the mouth of Qing Shui.

Qing Shui only allowed himself to lose control when there was no one else around.

Qing Shui still persisted in forcing the fiery red horse submit to him. The warning snort of the red horse, Qing Shui had completely disregarded it and continued to extend his other hand to touch the rump of the horse.

Qing Shui guessed that this horse might be female, but now, his actions had infuriated it.

The 4m long body of the fiery red horse reared up. A sound akin to a dragon roar rumbled out from its throat, its muscular body slammed down, preparing to stomp Qing Shui into tiny pieces, and continue stomping to the point where the tiny pieces became even tinier pieces, eventually turning him into nothingness.

“Ai, seems like your temper is pretty fiery right?” Qing Shui intentionally continued to extend his palm to the rump of the horse, giving it a swift slap on its bottom before jumping up, executing a somersault in midair and then land onto the back of the horse, mounting it. His silhouette was now filled with an oppressive, overbearing aura, tinged with gracefulness and beauty. “There, I have mounted you, you piece of shit!” Qing Shui roared triumphantly.

“Ai, young man, you are actually able to mount my emberlion steed.” An extremely gentle voice akin to the wind ruffling a teenage beauty’s hair rang out, disrupting the victorious thoughts of Qing Shui.

Trying to locate the source of the voice, Qing Shui turned his head and saw a teenage girl, around 20 years old, wearing a fiery red horse riding corset. She was a ravishing beauty, and her sexy little mouth, now containing hints of a pout, actually made Qing Shui’s normally calm heart tremble as he gazed at this vision of loveliness.

AST: Chapter 19 – Portrait of Beauty

As Qing Shui stared at the ravishing beauty in the fiery-red corset, he visibly gulped. His mind was filled with the thought of pushing her down right there and then, as hints of seduction reflected in his eyes.

The girl in the fiery-red corset noticed Qing Shui's stare, her brow slightly creasing as she was unsure of Qing Shui's intentions. This was partly because, looking at Qing Shui's charming pair of eyes, she did not think that Qing Shui was capable of thinking such dirty thoughts, with her as his main point of focus.

This could hardly be blamed on Qing Shui. After all, he had essentially been a geek in his previous life, he had close to zero experiences with love. Not to even mention that he was currently 15 years old, at the age where hormones rages wildly in one's body. The moment he saw this girl, he was hooked.. just like a moth to a flame. Qing Shui felt that this girl was just perfect, her beauty was beyond comparison. Especially her jade white face, it was a portrait of beauty! The only negative thing he could pick on was that the girl's countenance was cold, akin to that of a ice princess. Still, even the most beautiful actresses and movie stars of his previous life were akin to shit when compared to her.

“Hi, does this horse belongs to you? Can I ride you it?” Qing Shui calmed himself and collected his thoughts while asking a question that made the girl in red surprised.

As Qing Shui asked, he was fiercely using his strength to suppress the emberlion horse underneath him. Although he was asking for

permission from the owner, he had no intention of dismounting at all.

“You wish to ride my emberlion horse?” The girl in red coldly said, her cold countenance contrasting with her fiery-red corset, making her look even more striking.

Qing Shui also found this action of his laughable. The owner had yet to give him the permission to mount her steed, yet he was already riding on it. Meeting someone so despicable, the girl in red could only directly ask Qing Shui, as if wanting to tell him that her permission still mattered.

At this moment, Qing Shui did another somersault and landed back on the ground, smiling shyly as he stared at the girl in red. At close range he noticed that she was pretty tall, furthermore, her pair of snow-white legs were slender and long, Qing Shui secretly took note of it. Bobbing his head, Qing Shui asked “You are from Hundred Miles City?”

“Yup!” After all, there was no need to keep this a secret. Anyone who was not an idiot could tell with a mere glance that she was an outsider.

Just when Qing Shui wanted to chat with her further, ask her what a nice girl like her was doing in a place like this, Qing Luo appeared, accompanied by another old man and a youth.

The old man’s garb was plain and unadorned, yet one could see that the sewing technique used to tailor it was exquisite. This

coupled with the solid and heavy aura emanating from that old man, one could easily tell that this guy was someone of authority, a bigshot in some other place.

The youth behind the old man appeared to be of the same age as the girl in red, but the clothes on him were completely different from the old man's. His clothes were made from the finest silk and cotton, bestowing a sense of nobility on the already good looking youth. Just by looking at the youth, anyone could tell that he had an extraordinary background. The only thing that might put people off was that the youth had a haughty and arrogant expression in his eyes, as if looking down on the world was completely natural for him, like it was his right to do so. Qing Shui wanted to laugh when he saw this youth, because the temperament of this youth somehow reminded him of the emberlion horse which he had suppressed earlier.

Qing Shui saw that the 3 of them were smiling as they walked over. Could it be that they already wanted to leave?

“Qing Shui, come and greet your Uncle Nan Tian!” Qing Luo beckoned Qing Shui to come over as he happily did the introduction.

“Uncle Nan Tian, this junior Qing Shui greets you!”

“Ahh, so you are the son of Qing Yi?” The old man asked in surprised. Qing Yi was still relatively young but she already had a son this big. “Good to see you little fellow.” Situ Nan Tian said warmly, giving off an comfortable feeling.

“Come let me introduce you. Qing Shui, this is my grandson Situ Bu Fan, and this lady here is Shi Qing Zhuang!”

“And she is my fiancée!” Situ Bu Fan interjected with a smile that was yet not a smile,, hints of coldness emanating from his eyes.

“Oh, okay, what a pity.” Qing Shui could not hide the feelings within him. Maybe it was because Qing Shui already had a bad impression of Situ Bu Fan the moment he laid his eyes on him, not to mention the cocky expression on his face when he said that Shi Qing Zhuang was his fiancée. Qing Shui really felt like going over and punch out Situ Bu Fan’s teeth.

In contrast, the moment Qing Shui first laid his eyes on the lady in red, he already felt that her beauty was incomparable to any other living creature. Although she was a bit cold, Qing Shui was sure that just a simple smile from her would be comparable to the flowers blossoming in spring!

“You.. you.. what did you say?!” Situ Bu Fan was angered to the point of stuttering. He belonged to one of the 4 great clans in Hundred Miles City, he was the young master of the Situ Clan, he had never been spoken to like this before.

The meaning behind Qing Shui’s words were very clear, it was as if he wanted to infuriate Situ Bu Fan on purpose.

Looking at how Situ Bu Fan acted and his low level of tolerance, Qing Shui was filled with disdain. Situ Bu Fan was just another

useless spoiled brat from a large clan who did not know how high the heavens were. If he went out to adventure in the outside world on his own, he would inevitably offend someone he shouldn't offend and invite misfortune on himself.

Turning his head, Qing Shui looked at Shi Qing Zhuang. She didn't appear to be affected by the war of words between the two of them. She was calmly stroking the mane of the emberlion horse as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

The gigantic emberlion horse closed its eyes and stood still, seemingly enjoying Shi Qing Zhuang stroking it.

"Bu Fan, how many times have I told you? You must be polite and respect others! Your capacity to tolerate must be immense and your vision must be far, have you forgotten everything I taught you?" Situ Nan Tian angrily stated. On the sidelines, Qing Shui grinned, he felt like there was a breeze of cool air blowing past him, giving him a very comfortable feeling. It was tremendously gratifying to see Situ Bu Fan getting lectured in front of him.

Situ Bu Fan meekly lowered his head and didn't dare to utter anything during the tirade unleashed upon him by his grandfather.

"Qing Shui, you are not allowed to be impolite to Situ Bu Fan." Qing Luo appeared to be blaming Qing Shui, but his tone was warm and gentle, giving Qing Shui the feeling that Qing Luo actually admired his behaviour.

Anger brewing in his heart, Situ Bu Fan mused, if this meeting occurred elsewhere instead of the Qing Village, he would definitely crippled Qing Shui, after all, there were countless people wanting to curry favor with him – the young master of the Situ Clan.

So her name is Shi Qing Zhuang!

In Qing Shui's heart, he felt that not only was she beautiful, even her name sounded nice, she must be from the Shi Clan in the Hundred Miles City. The Shi Clan was also one of the 4 great clans of Hundred Miles City, and they are the strongest of all, it was rumoured that the City Lord of Hundred Miles City was someone from the Shi Clan.

Reaching the entrance of the Qing Village, "Brother Nan Tian, I shall accompany you till here, I will visit you again when I go to the Hundred Miles City in the near future." Qing Luo slowed his steps and said to Situ Nan Tian.

"Brother, you need not be so polite, after all we are comrades, the Situ Clan is also the Qing Clan and vice versa, there is no need to stand on ceremony with me." Situ Nan Tian angrily said.

After which, Situ Nan Tian and the 2 others left momentarily.

"This old damnable fox, it has been so many years and yet he is still so cunning!" Qing Luo sighed with a hint of helplessness.

“Grandpa, this Situ Nan Tian seemed respectable and amiable, he shouldn’t be too bad?” Qing Shui asked.

“Hahaha, you this little fox, no need to act in front of grandpa, do you think that grandpa is unable to tell what you are thinking of? I have a feeling that you would be even craftier than Situ Nan Tian when you reached his age.” Qing Luo burst out laughing.

“Grandpa... you wronged me T_T, how could i be so cunning heh heh.” Qing Shui grinned evilly.

“You are intelligent, and smart enough to be suspicious, and have a good sense of judgement for people, what a pity that your constitution is so weak.. If this was not the case, taking into account your comprehension level, you would definitely have world-shaking accomplishments in the realm of martial arts.” Qing Luo patted Qing Shui on his shoulder and said, with a contradictory expression appearing on his face.

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“Grandpa, why did you stop me earlier, how dare that Qing Clan kid humiliate me like this, I would have definitely given him a thrashing.” Situ Bu Fan was gnashing his teeth in frustration.

“Ai!” Situ Nan Tian let out a breath that he was holding, looking at his grandson, traces of disappointment could be seen in his eyes. His talent in martial arts could be considered above average, but his EQ and way of interacting with people was seriously too shitty. Situ Bu Fan could only afford to be arrogant, behaving in such a

way in the Hundred Miles City because he had the backing of his Situ Clan. But what he didn't know was that in the vast wide world outside, the Hundred Miles City was nothing.. just a speck of dust when compared to the truly great cities of the Greencloud continent.

AST: Chapter 20 – Grades of Medicinal Herbs

After watching Situ Nan Tian and company leave, Qing Luo brought Qing Zi, Qing Shui, and a few other 3rd generation disciples back to the Qing Mansion. Qing Shui wanted to know the objectives of the people from Hundred Miles: why were they here, and what were they doing here in the Qing Village, but he refrained from asking although his curiosity was great.

The moment they stepped into Qing Mansion, Qing Shui froze. He saw an extremely familiar face smiling at him from afar, Qing Yi had returned!

“Mother! You have returned!” Qing Shui happily ran up to Qing Yi, embracing her. It was uncertain of when exactly it happened, but Qing Shui already stood head and shoulders tall with Qing Yi.

Looking at his beautiful mother, Qing Shui felt indescribable waves of emotions stirring his heart. Age had left no traces of its gruesome touch on her face, Qing Yi still looked the same as she did 5 years ago. Thinking of this beautiful woman, changing his diapers, feeding him, bathing him, doing all of this for him, yet expecting nothing in return moved Qing Shui. This woman was his mother! His closest kin in this world!

In the past, when he was younger, he had lived majority of his life in Qing Yi’s embrace, under her protection and care. Now that Qing Shui had grown up, he was resolved to be the one protecting Qing Yi instead, he wanted to make her feel proud of him!

“Qing Shui, I have just returned. Wow, you have grown so much taller. You’re almost taller than me, you have finally grown up.” Qing Yi pinched Qing Shui’s cheeks and brought her face closer to Qing Shui, studying his features intently as if comparing their features. Qing Yi lips curled upwards as she smiled sweetly at him with hints of laughter in her eyes “Let’s go home.”

“Mother, you are the most beautiful person in the world!” As though they had never been separated in the past 5 years, Qing Shui happily held her hand just like he did in the past, and walked towards the courtyard they used to live in.

Qing Yi was slightly startled by Qing Shui’s random comment. After recovering she smiled as she looked amusedly at Qing Shui. Qing Shui was her only responsibility, and she was his support. Inadvertently, Qing Yi was worried for her son’s future. “Hmm he is still at the 3rd Grade even after 5 years. Shui er’s talent in martial arts is not that good... sigh. I shouldn’t hope for too much, compared to the time when he could not cultivate, the fact that he had managed to reach Martial Warrior, 3rd Grade could already be considered a gift from the Heavens.”

“After all, contentment is happiness!” Qing Yi was no longer worried. As she straightened out her thoughts, a smile comparable to the brightness of the sun broke out on her face.

Qing Shui had always been stressed over the fact that he could not break through. Although he had managed to increase the number of cycles he could circulate the Ancient Strengthening Technique from 36 cycles to 48 cycles over the last 5 years, he

knew that his current power was still far from enough. With this small amount of power, not to think about the vast world outside, even dreaming of standing at the top of Hundred Miles City could at best be treated as a joke to laugh about over a cup of wine.

No matter what, he had to get stronger. Only with sufficient strength would he be able to protect the people he wanted to protect. As Qing Shui glanced at Qing Yi, he silently vowed to himself “Even if the whole world becomes my enemy, I will never let her suffer!”

“Shui er, it does not matter if you have broken through to the 4th grade or not. When you are of age, mother will teach you how to run a business, okay..? With your intellect, becoming a rich merchant in the future would not be so bad. At least you should be able to live comfortably.” Qing Yi took care to moderate her tone of voice, she was worried that if Qing Shui managed to deduce from her tone that she was actually more concerned than him with regards to his cultivation problems, Qing Shui would blame himself more and suffer in silence.

If Qing Shui was perpetually in pain, as a mother, how would she be happy? Although the wishes in her heart would most likely never be fulfilled, but living like this, living a life of peace and contentment could also be considered a blessing, right?

Qing Shui smiled, he knew that the 4th grade Qing Yi was talking about was referring to the 4th level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!

After all, no one understood where his problems were more

clearly than him. Qing Shui did not want to live a peaceful life as a rich merchant. After observing how Qing Yi had carefully refrained from hurting his pride, he longed to tell Qing Yi his secrets... But how would any sane person believe in him? No, he cannot tell anyone, it is for the best if his secrets are buried inside his heart.

“But, I should still gradually let mother know of my true strength.” Qing Shui was contemplating on how to best inform Qing Yi.

“Mother, what did the Situ Clan from Hundred Miles City want from our Qing Clan this time?” Qing Shui decided to ask Qing Yi. Qing Shui knew that given a choice, Qing Yi would never choose to purposely conceal secrets from him.. Of course, Qing Shui also knew a few secrets as he got to know about them while he was still an infant, but he understood that Qing Yi had her own reasons for not confiding in him yet.

“They are coveting the few stalks of 1000-year old Lingzhi [1] that we possess.” Qing Yi sighed helplessly.

Qing Shui’s heart trembled slightly when he heard the words “1000-year old Lingzhi.” In his past world, it was already extremely difficult to find a 100-year old Lingzhi. Who would have thought that he would encounter 1000-year old Lingzhi stalks here.

Even in the Kyushu World, spiritual herbs were rare. In the Qing Village pharmacy, one would at most only be able to purchase medicinal herbs that were 100 years old. Out in the wilds, only when one was extremely fortunate would one be able to find a herb

that was 200 years old or higher.

“Mother, are those 1000-year old herbs extremely short in supply?” Qing Shui asked when he saw that Qing Yi now had a heart-wrenching expression on her face.

“100-year old herbs, even 800-year old herbs, as long as they are not 1000-year old herbs they can all be considered as common medicinal herbs. Only when a herb has aged 1000 years or more can it be considered an extremely precious medicinal herb. There is only one grade difference between common herbs and precious herbs, but that one grade difference is the same as the distance between heaven and earth! For example, many alchemists tend to concoct pills and pellets to increase cultivation, or to extend one’s life. During the concoction of these valuable pills and pellets, every single piece of herb and ingredients have to strictly meet the criteria outlined in the recipe. If the alchemist uses a 999-year old Lingzhi instead of a 1000-years old one, the effect of the pill will be lost and the concoction will most likely end up in failure.” Qing Yi gently smiled as she slowly explained her knowledge of herbs to Qing Shui.

“Precious Grade ingredients? Common Grade ingredients? Are ingredients classified based on their age? If so, how about ingredients that are 10,000 years of age?” Qing Shui decided to consult Qing Yi on her knowledge of medicinal herbs. After all, Qing Yi was the one in charged of the medicinal herbs business of the Qing Clan. She should be the most qualified person to consult regarding information about medicine and herbal ingredients.

“Medicinal pellets and herbal ingredients can be classified into

Common Grade, Precious Grade, Jade grade, King grade, Royal grade, Emperor grade, Saint grade and Divine Grade.” Qing Yi explained.

Without even giving a chance for Qing Shui to ask questions, Qing Yi ploughed on “Other than classifying them into precious or common grade, the cost of the herb is also largely dependant on it’s age. For example, a common grade herb of 100 years and a common grade herb of 900 years, the difference in price can still be quite excessive. With age as the criteria, herbs could roughly be classified in this manner.”

- 0-999 years = Common Grade
- 1000-2999 years = Precious Grade
- 3000-4999 years = Jade Grade
- 5000-6999 years = King Grade
- 7000-7999 years = Royal Grade
- 8000-8999 years = Emperor Grade
- 9000-9999 years = Saint Grade
- 10,000 years and more = Divine Grade

“Shui`er, why the sudden interest in herbs?” Qing Yi laughed questioningly, she felt extremely proud of her son. Considerable and kind-hearted and with intelligence far beyond the norm. (TL: considerable and kind-hearted really? =.=)

“Who wouldn’t like such good stuff, heehee” Qing Shui grinned.

Qing Yi appeared somewhat downcast as she sighed “For the medicinal herbs, even if we could obtain precious herbs or herbs of

better grades, it would still be useless... We cannot use the herbs as we please. Usually we will sell the herbs off for a high price, or exchange them for some cultivation pellets from alchemists. Of course, the value of the exchange would not be fair and we would still suffer some losses from the sale.”

A bright glow started to shine in Qing Shui’s eyes as the topic shifted to alchemists.

Qing Shui knew that Qing Yi had always been oppressed by her business partners. As he was fearful of making Qing Yi feel sad, he decided not to ask anymore.

“Could it be that herbs of the precious grade and above couldn’t be directly consumed?” Qing Shui mused. He knew that people in his previous world actually consumed things like 100-year old ginseng with no ill effects!

AST: Chapter 21 – It is Tough to be Strong

“Could it be that herbs of the precious grade and above can’t be directly consumed?” Qing Shui mused. He knew that people in his previous world actually consumed things like 100-year old ginseng with no ill effects!

Qing Yi patted Qing Shui on his forehead and gently said “Herbs of the common grade can be directly consumed after slight processing, but of course the percentage of medicinal strength one can absorb would only be about 10-20%. The majority of the leftover medicinal strength will be wasted. Naturally, there are some exceptions to this. When herbs are aged 500 years or more, the herbs can no longer be consumed directly. If you ignore the safety restriction, and are set on doing so, instead of helping you, the herbs will cause great harm to your body. If the herbs are of Precious Grade or higher, directly consuming it may even lead to one’s death!”

“Ooo, then how about the herbs that cannot be directly consumed? Maybe there is a method for us to absorb the medicinal essence inside of them?” Qing Shui speculated. As the thought about it, the alchemy profession suddenly appeared in his mind.

“Alchemist!”

Seeing that Qing Shui seemed to be extremely interested in the alchemy profession, Qing Yi gave a detailed explanation “The herbs that cannot be directly consumed will need an alchemist to concoct them into pills. Using various methods, after extracting the herbal essence and finally coagulating them into the shape of a

pill, they will be able to prevent the excessive loss of medicinal strength! And thus, in this way it will also be more beneficial for a cultivator to consume the pill concocted, rather than the herb itself.”

So that’s the reason why. Qing Shui understood it better now. Initially he thought that directly consuming a herb would at most only lead to a miniscule loss in the amount of energy retained. He originally thought that because the body wasn’t able to absorb such a large amount of energy in one go, the excess energy would be dispersed as waste. He never expected that for herbs graded Precious or higher, the excess amount of energy would cause one’s body to explode, leading to one’s death!

“Mother, since herbs and medical ingredients can be divided into grades, what about alchemists? What is the difference between the pills created by a 3rd ranked alchemist and a 5th ranked one?”

“The higher ranked an alchemist is, the better the quality of his concocted pills will be. Obviously, a common ranked alchemist will find it almost impossible to refine and concoct pills of the Precious Grade.” Qing Yi replied.

The ranks of alchemists was somewhat similar to the classifications of herbs. It was only slightly more complex in comparison. Common, Precious, Jade, King, Royal, Emperor, Saint, Divine. These 8 grades of spiritual herbs were comparable to the 8 different alchemist ranks. The only difference was that, for alchemist, each rank was further divided into 10 levels. Eg. Common-Ranked Alchemist of the 10th level.

“Hmm, it is actually the similar to [Western Fantasy]. The higher the rank of an alchemist, the higher the quality of concocted pills. However, I still do not know when I will be able to master the alchemy arts gifted to me by the Ancient Strengthening Technique. I wonder... If I concoct pills based on the ancient recipes from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, what grade will they be?” Qing Shui’s eyes gleamed with a light, he was getting more and more excited about becoming an alchemist!

“The Situ Clan from Hundred Miles City wants to buy all the precious graded herbs from our Qing Clan. Could it be that they are hiding an alchemist?” Thinking back on how arrogant Situ Bu Fan acted, as well as that cold glance of Shi Qing Zhuang when she was introduced by Situ Bu Fan as his fiancée, Qing Shui could not help but clench his fist. Pieces of the puzzle began to fall in place inside his mind. “Could this be the reason why Qing Shi Zhuang was forcibly betrothed to Situ Bu Fan as his fiancée, despite her unwillingness?”

Qing Yi looked at Qing Shui in shock. This child... his power of deductions are almost godlike.. She smiled and rustled Qing Shui’s hair and said “Your guess is correct, the reason why the Situ Clan is so illustrious in Hundred Miles City is because one of Situ Nan Tian’s sons has broken through to the Jade-Ranked Alchemist level.”

“Just a Jade-Ranked Alchemist, and yet he dares to be so arrogant?” Qing Shui exclaimed in displeasure.

Hearing that, Qing Yi almost coughed out blood. Using a bit of force, she tapped Qing Shui’s head and said “What do you mean

with ‘just a Jade-Ranked Alchemist’ ‘Do you think there are plenty of alchemists? Even in the entire Hundred Miles City, the amount of reputable alchemists can be counted on a single hand. Although the one named Lei from the Situ Clan has only reached the 1st level of the Jade-Ranked, he naturally has the ability to be arrogant!” Qing Yi giggled, half in humor and half in consternation at Qing Shui’s ignorance.

Qing Shui gently shook his head and smiled, seeing Qing Yi happy made him happy too.

Only in front of Qing Yi would Qing Shui appear to be a child... A simple and naive little child.

“Since being an alchemist is so revered, why doesn’t the Situ Alchemist leave Hundred Miles City and go to some other bigger cities to develop? Why would he want to limit himself?” Qing Shui could not understand.

“Hai, do you not understand the theory behind ‘one would rather be a big fish in a small pond compared to a small fish in a big pond’? Over there, his status is akin to a diamond. Out there in the vast world, he may only be a piece of stone.” Qing Yi explained.

Qing Shui finally understood!

“With a status of a 1st level Jade-Ranked Alchemist, he was nothing compared to the stronger alchemists out in the world.” Qing Shui was getting more and more excited about the prospect of heading out into the vast world of Kyushu. It was a pity that he

still did not have sufficient strength. The world outside could be fascinating, but also dangerous. Qing Shui did not want to throw away his life for nothing!

“Yeah, although people usually say that alchemists have terrifying might. The alchemists they are referring to are the alchemists that are King-Ranked or higher. Because those who are able to concoct King Grade or higher pills are usually Xian Tian Cultivators!

Qing Yi’s words jolted Qing Shui out of his contemplation. “Xian Tian? A cultivator at the Xian Tian realm could wipe out Hundred Miles City with just a flick of his finger. Not to mention a Xian Tian Realm Cultivator who was also an alchemist. Just being an alchemist alone already grants one a revered status. In addition to the fact that he is a Xian Tian Realm Cultivator, to also be an Alchemist? Even the City Lord would have to show him respect!”

Being an Alchemist is so awesome! After all, they spent every bit of their time delving into the arts of pill concoction, sometimes even to the point of neglecting their own cultivation! If everyone could easily concoct King Grade or higher level pills, how could the alchemy profession still be considered as the profession with the most revered status?

“This profession truly has strict requirements needed to train in it. To produce King Grade pills or higher, one would need to be at the Xian Tian Realm. Only at the Xian Tian Realm will the cultivator be able to use their Xiantian Inner Fire to aid them in pill concoction!” Qing Shui and Qing Yi had already arrived at their own courtyard in the midst of their discussion.

“Although it is exceedingly tough to breakthrough to the Xiantian Realm. If I want to reach the stage of a Common, Precious or Jade-Ranked alchemist, will the requirements also be as difficult? After all, in Hundred Miles City which has a population of over 1 million people, there are only a few Jade-Ranked alchemists.” Qing Shui mused.

“The main point is that training to be an alchemist is very tough, the prerequisite is to memorize and understand everything inside the books <Continental Medical Annal>, <10,000 Herbology Encyclopedia> and <Herbal Combination Formula>. Just this initial step alone is considered a barrier, these three books restrict 80%-90% of the people who want to become an Alchemist. It is insufficient to merely possess determination. Memorization skills and a high level of comprehension are both extremely important as well!”

“Only after completing the initial steps of memorizing and completely comprehending the essence of these three books will you be considered a Medical Physician. If you truly want to become an alchemist, you will need to seek out a master. Only with the guidance of a master alchemist will you be able to learn the true alchemy skills, such as essence extracting and pill concoction techniques.”

“For pills concoction of the Common Grade to Jade Grade, the process is known as Essence Extracting. Only after you have reached the Xiantian Realm will you be capable of concocting King Grade level pills or higher with the use of Pill Concoction Techniques.

“Oh, I see.. Mother, those 3 books which you mentioned earlier, can I find them in our library?” Qing Shui eagerly asked.

AST: Chapter 22 – Helpless Lies

“Oh, I see... Mother, those 3 books which you mentioned earlier, can I find them in our library?” Qing Shui eagerly asked.

The 3 books that Qing Yi mentioned were not rare or valuable books, they could in fact be considered relatively common. Just from the titles of these books, one could tell that the knowledge recorded in them was elementary knowledge on herbs that served as the foundation of an alchemist’s knowledge.

“Therefore, copies of these books are extremely commonplace, even commoners that do not belong to any clans will have a copy of them. Almost all of the adults in Qing Village have flipped through the contents of the 3 books, memorizing it as much as possible. After all, when they are out hunting or foraging in the wilds, with luck they might be able to discover valuable herbs which they might overlook if not for the knowledge from the books.” Qing Shui explained, with hints of curiosity in her eyes as she looked at Qing Shui.

After learning from Qing Yi that the copies of <<Continental Medical Annal>>, <<10,000 Herbology Encyclopedia>> and the <<Herbal Combination Formula>> were extremely widespread, Qing Shui could confirm that the knowledge within these books was at most elementary knowledge that made up the foundation of an alchemist. If the books were rare and valuable, how would so many people be able to have access to them?

Since Qing Shui had already decided that he wanted to become an alchemist, he decided to take the chance now to read the books

containing information pertaining to the art of alchemy. Since there was nothing he could do to facilitate his breakthrough to the 4th layer of Ancient Strengthening Technique at the moment, Qing Shui wanted to obtain the chance to gain more insights into the art of alchemy, he wanted to read more and find out if the alchemy he knew from [Western Fantasy] was similar to the one they practiced in World of the Nine Continents.

“Qing Shui, why the sudden interest in reading?” Qing Yi could sense that Qing Shui had a burning curiosity regarding the knowledge these books contained.

“Keke, Mother, you are in the medicinal herbs business, I wish to understand more about herbs so that I will be able to assist you. Who knows, I may even become an alchemist in the future as well. Qing Shui said half-jokingly.

“You little brat, how could it be so easy for one to become an alchemist.” Qing Yi smiled gently. “Nevermind, we will look towards the future, after all, a moment of oppression counts for nothing. As the saying goes: one must suffer before one can accomplish great things.” Qing Yi warmly said as she rubbed Qing Shui’s hair. Looking at Qing Yi, Qing Shui once again felt the greatness of motherly love..

“Mother, I am planning to leave Qing Village in the next few days. I want to see the outside world. After all, I’m already 15, and I have never even stepped out of Qing Village before! People would label me as a country bumpkin if they knew.” Qing Shui yearned for the world outside immensely. He also knew that bringing this topic up would cause Qing Yi to worry about him, after all, his

strength was supposedly only at the level of 3rd grade of the Blue Lotus Art.

Qing Yi furrowed her brows in worry and blamed herself in her heart. She blamed herself for not bringing Qing Shui along when she went to Hundred Miles City. Qing Yi was afraid that Qing Shui might become overly intrigued by the beautiful sights outside of Qing Village and refuse to return! He was bound to suffer and get bullied outside of Qing Village with the meager bit of strength he possessed.”

What Qing Yi didn't know was that Qing Shui's mental state had already matured to the state of an adult a long time ago. Pain and suffering? What are those? Before true determination, those are nothing! Qing Shui had long since understood that, in this world where cultivation was key, the strong ruled over everything. Power is the most absolute authority, while strength determined a person's status. It was the same throughout the ages.

Looking at Qing Yi's furrowed eyebrows, Qing Shui knew that she was worrying about him. This was also expected.. If he wanted to leave the village, he would have to come out with a reasonable excuse.

“Mother, are you worried that I will be bullied?” Qing Shui blinked his eyes, seemingly innocently, trying to make the atmosphere less edgy. After all, all children are close to the heart of their parents, how could Qing Shui not understand Qing Yi's worry for him.

“Hmm, Qing Shui, how about this? Just stay here for a few

months longer, after I become less busy, I will accompany you to tour the outside world together, alright?” Qing Yi felt bitter in her heart. After all, a large clan like the Qing Clan needs plenty of capital to operate. Her medicinal business in the Hundred Miles City was imperative to the survival of the Qing Clan. In addition, recently there had been a huge business transaction taking place. Hints of hesitation appeared in her heart, because on one hand she wanted to accompany Qing Shui, while on the other hand, she would need to conclude this business transaction personally.

Qing Shui went over and comforted Qing Yi, as he could see that Qing Yi was torn between the two fronts.

“Mother, actually I am not as weak as I appear to be, I have something that I always wanted to tell you.” Qing Shui started to squirm uncomfortably, he could not tell the whole truth, but he needed something close to that, something which also sounded reasonable so as to allow Qing Yi to believe him.

“Oh, you little brat, after you grew up you decided to play tricks on your mother uh?” Qing Shui smiled as slightly berated Qing Shui. “Okay, go ahead, tell me what is it that you are hiding.”

After Qing Shui saw the smile appear on Qing Yi’s face, he knew that this was a good thing, if he could successfully convince Qing Yi now, he would have the chance to explore the world outside of Qing Village.

“Five years ago, at the bottom of the western mountains, I met an extremely ancient man. After seeing me, the old man laughed and said that this was a chance meeting, he had a feeling that this must

be an arrangement of destiny! The old man reviewed my cultivation techniques and said that the strengthening technique I was currently practicing was not suited for myself. After that, he taught me a set of strengthening techniques that would not only be able to refine my tendons and bones, but also massively increase my level of strength! In addition, before he left, he also imparted to me a set of fist techniques. Back then, I was young and ignorant and didn't really understand much. However, I practiced the techniques the old man taught me and have gained some small success within the last 5 years. Now that 5 years has passed, I regret not learning more from him. Because now that I think about it, he must have been a Xian Tian cultivator!" Qing Shui hurriedly sprouted out a whole bunch of crap, mixing in some elements of the truth.

Qing Yi held an unbelieving gaze in her eyes as she discovered the many glaring loopholes of the story Qing Shui explained. However, she still silently let him finish.

"You said that you had some small success after cultivating for 5 years, so what is your actual strength now?" Qing Yi appreciated that Qing Shui was trying to make her feel less worried. However, she hoped what Qing Shui said was true!

"Hmm the old man didn't say so I am not really sure what level my strength has reached. However, I can say for certain that currently, my strength can be counted within the top 20 of the 3rd generation disciples" Qing Shui didn't dare to tell Qing Yi about his true strength.

"Since it is like this, and seeing how confident you are, Mother

shall suppress her strength to Martial Warrior, 6th grade and have a small competition with you.” Qing Yi said with anticipation. She could not wait to find out how much had Qing Shui grown in these 5 years.

Qing Shui smiled with elation in his heart, his scheme had succeeded “If I manage to win, can mother grant me permission to leave Qing Village?”

Qing Yi hesitated for awhile, looking at the confident expression on Qing Shui’s face, she was uncertain if she should be happy or sad. She was worried that Qing Shui might end up the victor, but she also hoped that he would win, proving to everyone that his strength level could be comparable to Martial Warrior, 6th grade! The stronger he was, the better! This meant that he would have the ability to protect himself when he is journeying outside Qing Village.

Qing Yi gave Qing Shui an ultimatum. “Defeat me and you will have my permission!” Although, her heart was thinking that if Qing Shui proved to be stronger than expected, she would just stealthily increase her strength accordingly.

Qing Shui beamed, with a wide smile on his face. “Okay, I am ready!”

Qing Yi was at the realm of Martial Commander, 8th Grade, if Qing Yi suppressed her strength to Martial Warrior, 6th grade, then he was absolutely certain that she would not be a match for him.

AST: Chapter 23 – Questions about Martial Grades

“Very well, let me see what that ancient old man taught you!” Qing Yi laughed as she readied her stance for battle.

In fact, Qing Shui had always been extremely puzzled, why was it that Qing Clan’s 3rd generation eldest grandson, Qing Zi, was already considered to be at the “peak” when his cultivation was only at 8th Grade Martial Warrior. In comparison, Qing You at 18, whose cultivation was at the peak of 7th Grade Martial Warrior was considered a genius.

While the 2nd generation of Qing Clan had broken through to 8th Grade Martial Commander, and some had even broken through to the 9th Grade. Qing Luo’s cultivation was at 10th Grade Martial Commander, but he was already over a 100 years old.

Although Qing Zi, who was already 25-26 years old was considered as the leader amongst the 3rd generation, he had yet to step into the Martial General realm. Even if he broke through to the Martial General realm in 5 years and Martial Commander realm in another 10 years of time, he would at most be able to reach the realm of 1st Grade Martial Commander at the age of 40+ . In comparison, the current 2nd generation members who were 40 years of age or older, had at the very least already cultivated to the realm of 8th Grade Martial Commander!

Clearing his mind of distractions, Qing Shui knew that his speculations were right! There was definitely some complications with the cultivation of the 3rd generation. Either that, or the

members of the 2nd generations were all peerless geniuses whose talents exceeded even Qing You! How could there be so many geniuses within the Qing Clan? How very suspicious.

Because of the sparring session, Qing Yi brought Qing Shui to the backyard of the Qing Mansion. This backyard belonged to the Qing Clan. Situated within it was Qing Yi's house and practice chamber. Other warehouses were also located in it. The backyard was extremely spacious, with 10 meter high walls surrounding it in all four directions. Far off in the distance there were a few black dogs, the size of a bull, lazily lying there, gazing around with vigilance, giving off the appearance of guarding something. These dogs were named Moriyama Tiger Mastiffs, they were similar in appearance to the Tibetan Mastiff of Qing Shui's past world, albeit much bigger in size, as well as being much more muscular and ferocious!

Sadly, in this world, there were many animals and wild beasts with traits which far exceeded these dogs. Therefore, the mastiffs could only be used as guard dogs in the Qing Clan. Any ferocious beasts that wandered past, could easily slaughter these seemingly oversized Moriyama Tiger Mastiffs for dinner. After all, these Mastiffs only looked deceptively strong, they were no match for any beast with true might.

All these thoughts flashed through his mind in an instant, after which he looked at Qing Yi who was already prepared, Qing Shui then also entered into his opening stance. To demonstrate his intent, Qing Shui struck out with a single fist. As he struck out, just using his bodily strength, without the aid of his inner Qi, this seemingly slow strike actually caused a gentle wind to be generated around his fist. Containing tyrannical might, his fist travelled in the direction of Qing Yi.

“Ai!” Qing Yi was thunderstruck. Hints of terror and awe flashed past her eyes. Qing Yi knew, just by looking at that single punch. This strike... this strike of his... actually contained power far beyond that of a 6th Grade Martial Warrior!

Qing Yi wasted no time, she summoned her internal Qi and extended her right hand speedily in Qing Shui's direction, trying to catch Qing Shui's fist as it neared.

“Keke” Qing Shui laughed slightly, just when his fist was about to come into contact with Qing Yi, he shifted the direction of his attack with breathtaking speed. Qing Shui's originally tightly clenched fist relaxed as he extend out his index and middle finger, forming the shape of a sword [1] as he swiftly stabbed at the Shao Shang, Yu Ji, Tai Yuan, Lie Que acupoints [2] of Qing Yi's right arm.

Akin to a frozen statue, Qing Yi stood there mutely in shock! She discovered that her right arm was completely devoid of strength, and was filled with numbness!

She would never have expected that Qing Shui had mastered such a terrifying technique, capable of locking the acupoints and breaking the energy channels of the opponent. Confusion rose in Qing Yi's heart. This sort of martial arts, although powerful, is extremely difficult to train in. After all, it requires the practitioner to have a profound knowledge about the positions of all the distinct meridians, energy channels, and acupoints. Those who successfully mastered this were doubtlessly heaven-shaking geniuses with a will many times stronger than ordinary people.

After all, one would be required to expend exceedingly tedious effort in order to master this technique. The practitioner had to take the reaction of the opponent into account. The speed, the amount of strength and angle of attack. All of these had to be calculated in a millisecond!

“En, it appears that it was true when he said that he learnt a technique that would massively increase his strength. This child is full of surprises, the aura that was emanated when he performed that strike was extraordinary. In addition to that, the technique he performed earlier is rarely seen within Greencloud Continent. Qing Shui had actually made use of the moment where Qing Yi had been momentarily surprised to carry out his attack.

Qing Yi was ecstatic! Her son had actually managed to reach the realm of <<Breaking Meridians and Locking Acupoints>>! If his intelligence was this high, then there might really be the possibility of him becoming an Alchemist!

Common-Ranked Alchemists were actually only a little bit better off when compared with a Medical Doctor. Using mortal fire to concoct pills, with the rate of failure much higher than success, thus the quality of the pills concocted were low but expensive. After all, the pills concocted succeeded only after a multitude of tries. The reason why there were so few alchemists was because of the cost of successfully grooming one, which far exceeded the fortunes of many clans.

“Our Qing Clan does not have sufficient resources to train an Alchemist.” Qing Yi depressedly sighed.

“Mother, are you alright? Does your arm still feels uncomfortable?”, Qing Shui gently held Qing Yi’s right arm, circulating his internal Qi, which originated from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and quickly, the pain and discomfort on Qing Yi’s arms dissipated.

“Shui`er, you have grown...” when Qing Shui was transmitting his inner Qi to Qing Yi, she could feel that his internal strength was thick and solid. Now, Qing Yi was thoroughly convinced that the story about the ancient old man was true, her son did indeed have a fortuitous encounter! To her surprise, now that she was observing Qing Shui closely, Qing Yi could sense an unfathomably deep aura imperceptibly emanating out from Qing Shui.

“Mother will allow you to leave the Qing Clan, but, you must take care to put your safety above all things. You are not allowed to venture too far and you must come back by the end of the year to participate in our Qing Clan’s coming of age ceremony!” Qing Yi rustled Qing Shui’s hair fondly. After all, she might not get the chance to do so again after Qing Shui departs for his travels.

“Mother, I want to read the <<Continental Medical Annal>> , <<10,000 Herbology Encylopedia>> and <<Herbal Combination Formula>>. After the year is over, I should be able to help you with your business!” Qing Shui smiled.

“Okay, having more knowledge is always good, mother will support you. Come, let me bring you to the Qing Clan’s Library.”

Hearing that Qing Yi was bringing him to the secretive Qing Clan's Library, Qing Shui was filled with excitement. After all, the library was only open to those with the strength of 6th Grade, Martial Warrior and above. Thus, he had never been there before.

“Mother, I have a question regarding Martial Grades!” Qing Shui thought of the question lingering in his heart, and decided to ask Qing Yi.

“Just ask, Mother will not hold anything back from you.” Qing Yi smiled.

“Why is it that our Qing Clan doesn't really have any Martial Generals? Other than a large bunch of Martial Warriors, the rest of the clan are people like yourself with cultivation levels of Martial Commander. What does this imply? Is there some underlying circumstances that caused this to happen?”

Looking at Qing Shui after hearing a question so far outside of her expectations, Qing Yi visibly paled as her heart shuddered. Why would he ask such a question? This kid, his intelligence is inhumane.. far beyond the scope of geniuses!

“Because... of a certain medicinal pill. With the exception of your grandpa and 2nd uncle, if not for that medicine, the rest of the 2nd generation would only be at the realm of Martial General, or at most, the 1st grade of Martial Commander.

“What the...? There was such a miraculous pill out there? From

what mother has said, this pill could increase one's cultivation level by leaps and bounds, forcibly breaking through from Martial General to Martial Commander!" Qing Shui felt that this was too inconceivable. How could there be such a good thing in the world.

"Not only that, if your potential is high, this medicinal pill can even increase your level from Martial General Grade 1, directly to the peak of the HouTian Realm! Even if their potential is low, at the very least, for normal cultivators, this pill would still be able to increase their levels from Martial General Grade 1, to Martial General Grade 10." Qing Yi explained.

"What sort of pill could that be..? What pill could be so miraculous to the point of defying the heavens!?"

AST: Chapter 24 – Miraculous Pill or Forbidden Medicine?

“What sort of pill could that be..? What pill could be so miraculous, to the point of defying the heavens!?”

Qing Shui felt that this was just too incredible, just what kind of pill could forcibly raise the level of one’s cultivation by an entire realm? An entire realm that may not even be reachable after a period of 10 years, 20 years, or even an entire lifetime spent in cultivation!

The art of alchemy was too terrifying... It could even beget the creation of such a pill that defies the order of nature, seemingly proclaiming to be in opposition to the heavens!

“The name of this pill is known as the ‘Crippling Divine Pill’!” Traces of complexity filled Qing Yi’s eyes, as if she had many things in her heart, but was unsure of how to tell them to Qing Shui.

“Mother, why does such a miraculous pill have the name of ‘Crippling Divine Pill’? This name gives the impression that it is a trash pill instead of a divine pill.” Qing Shui curiously asked.

“Solely on the basis that this pill can elevate one’s level of cultivation by an entire realm, the grade of this pill would already classify as a Saint Grade concocted spiritual pill. However, one truly had to consider all avenues and carefully weigh their options before making the decision to ingest this pill as the side effects

caused by it are irreversible and the consequences too horrifying!” Qing Yi sighed, sadness and helplessness was evident on her face.

“Side effects?” although Qing Shui looked young, he understood the connotations behind the meaning of the more beneficial something was, the worse its side effects would be. After all, he had the experiences of 2 lifetimes. Qing Shui had already vaguely sensed that this pill was too good to be true, but he just could not put his finger on what the side effects could be.

“Yes, and the prerequisite for ingesting this pill is that the cultivator must have already broken through to 10th Grade Martial Warrior, and the cultivator can be no older than 30 years of age. Depending on one’s potential and talent, the Crippling Divine Pill will at least forcibly raise one’s level of cultivation to 10th Grade Martial General realm. For stronger individuals, they could possibly even breakthrough straight into the different grades of the Martial Commander realm! However, there is a limit. Users of this pill will never, in their entire life, ever be able to breakthrough to the peak of Houtian realm. The highest level they can reach will be the 9th Grade of Martial Commander realm. Those who use this pill are forever doomed to make no breakthroughs in their cultivation, destined to be stuck at Houtian stage forever.” Qing Yi softly explained as she studied Qing Shui’s expressions.

Qing Shui felt relief in his heart as he heard Qing Yi’s explanation. If such a powerful pill had no side effects, it would be a tragedy. Tyrannical cultivators would be as common as the clouds, ravaging the land as they pleased. Luckily, the future ramifications of taking this pill limited many cultivators from doing so, and at the same time, also restricted those who had taken the pill to be stuck on the 9th grade of Martial Commander.

To be at the realm of 10th Grade Martial Warrior while at the age of 30 years or less, cultivators who could fulfil this conditions would not choose to use this sort of forbidden methods. Not only is the Crippling Divine Pill expensive, the possibility of reaching the Xiantian realm was completely severed by ingesting this pill. The majority of cultivators would never choose this method to increase their strength, for it is tantamount to destroying their future path in cultivation.

Looking at Qing Shui, Qing Yi actually felt astonished. Regardless, she continued saying:

“Reaching the Xiantian realm is the dream of all of mankind, but how many can reach it? That 0.1%, no, 0.01% of hope of breaking through to the Xiantian realm was the only source of motivation which prevented the majority of cultivators from ingesting the Crippling Divine Pill. Even if they wanted to digest it, the ingredients needed to concoct the Crippling Divine Pill were extremely sparse. thus it was expensive to manufacture. Even with money, there was no guarantee that one could purchase it.”

“Mother, you mean that our clan members consumed this Crippling Divine Pill, right?” Qing Shui thought of the question he had asked before, about why there was no Martial Generals in the Qing Clan.

“Other than your 2nd uncle and your grandpa, the rest of the 2nd generation including myself have all consumed the Crippling Divine Pill.” Qing Yi mumbled softly, with traces of helplessness and unwillingness in her voice.

“Does this mean that the rest of the 2nd generation will never have the chance to break into the Xiantian Realm? Qing Shui frantically asked, with a little sympathy and distress in his voice.

Qing Yi grimaced, “Qing Shui, back in the days, the Qing Clan was nothing. Your grandpa ventured here to establish his roots, our Qing Clan then began to slowly build up its foundations, and after 20 years of toil it could be considered a relatively small clan. Back then, only the potential of your 2nd uncle could be considered above average. Your 2nd uncle had already broke through to the 2nd Grade of Martial General at a young age, while the rest of us were stuck at the peak of Martial Warrior, sorely unable to breakthrough to the 1st Grade of Martial General!”

Qing Shui noticed that Qing Yi slowed down and guessed that there were still plenty of stories behind this, so he stayed silent and inclined his head to continue listening.

“Before that, we were being greatly suppressed by the clans in Hundred Miles City. However, after your grandpa broke through to the peak of Houtian realm, the 4 great clans of Hundred Miles City actually conspired to disable your grandpa! They were afraid that the Qing Clan would somehow adversely affect their standings in the Hundred Miles City.”

“Luck was on our side, your grandpa discovered their plot ahead of time and took out all of his treasured spiritual pills. He wanted the Qing Clan to have a ray of hope to look forward to, the possibility of reaching the Xiantian realm, and as such he did not allow your 2nd uncle to consume the pill. However, although your

grandpa had the cultivation level of peak Houtian, he was only a one man, he could not fight against the combined efforts of the four great clans of Hundred Miles City alone.”

“Without a choice, other than your 2nd uncle, the rest of us in the 2nd generation consumed the Crippling Divine Pill and broke through to the realm of Martial Commanders. After realizing what we had done, the members of the four great clans retreated without attacking, but it was too late, the damage had already been done. In the 2nd generation, all of us were stripped of the hope of cultivating to the Xian Tian realm with the exception of your 2nd uncle! So do you see how important the 3rd generation is to our Qing Clan? We would never willingly allow any of you to consume the Crippling Divine Pill.”

“No wonder it is called the Crippling Divine Pill, the beneficial properties of it can be classified as mystical, almost godlike, but at the same time it is nothing but a trash pill! Especially in a large clans, there is no way the clan head would willingly allow his progeny to consume this type of medicine, thereby severing their paths to the realm of Xiantian. In addition, those who consume the pill to forcibly break into the realm of Martial Commander, are absolutely no match for those who cultivated by scratch to reach the same level. The reason behind this is that those who took the shortcut would never have the opportunity to experience that moment of epiphany and the tempering of their dao heart, compared to breaking through with efforts.”

“So the main users of this pill will be those cultivators with limited potential, since they already know that they will never reach the Xiantian realm in their lifetime, they will not mind sacrificing their entire fortune just to exchange for a single pill.”

The ultimate grouse of the poor was that the things they needed to work so hard for, was taken for granted by those born with a silver spoon in their mouth. Just like in cultivation, those who spent their backbreaking efforts in cultivating, would find himself outdone by a rich young master who had a single Crippling Divine Pill.

“In the World of the Nine Continents, with a population of more than 10 million people, how many are able to successfully breakthrough to the Xiantian realm? This is why, even though the Crippling Divine Pill is a trash pill, it is still fiercely hoarded by large clans. That year, because of some fortuitous events, your grandpa managed to obtain 7 Crippling Divine Pills. We have used four of them, now there are only three remaining. Thus, the three remaining Crippling Divine Pills can be considered as a treasure of our Qing Clan.”

“Mother, if in the past, the 2nd generation members did not consume the pill, would you all have the chance to step into the Xiantian Realm now?” Qing Shui could hear the disappointment when Qing Yi spoke.

Looking at his expression, Qing Yi understood what Qing Shui was thinking.

“Silly child, how could it be so easy to breakthrough to Xiantian? Breaking through to Xiantian depends on an individual’s karma and destiny. Xiantian means gaining insight into the way of Heavens. Without a sudden flash of insight, without entering that special state of enlightenment, one will never be able to break into

the Xiantian realm! Your grandpa spent 60 years! A whole 60 years at the boundary of the Xiantian realm, yet he is still unable to take that single step and break through!”

“Gaining insight, into the way of the Heavens?” Thoughts were spinning in Qing Shui’s mind as he heard this.

AST: Chapter 25 – Library of Qing Clan, Elder Lin Appears!

“Gaining insight, into the way of the Heavens?” Thoughts were spinning in Qing Shui’s mind as he heard this.

Qing Shui recalled the state of enlightenment he had previously attained, and he knew well the tremendous benefits which originated from it. Every time one completes their meditation in a state of enlightenment, the benefits gained far surpassed 10 years of hard work. But other than enlightenment, was there no other way to gain insight into the way of the Heavens? There seemed to be no other way indeed. After all, gaining insight into the way of the Heavens depended on an individual’s karma and destiny, the majority of the cultivators would never experience that special state of enlightenment throughout their entire life! Some would even have an encounter similar to Qing Shui, entering that special state, but not at the peak of Houtian!

Unconvinced, just as Qing Shui wanted to ask Qing Yi about other methods that would allow one to gain insights of the way of Heavens, Qing Yi interjected.

“Qing Shui, we have arrived at the library!”

Qing Shui looked down and realized that they had already reached the end of the path. In front of him, there was a 3 story building constructed entirely from heavy stones. A secretive and slightly oppressive feeling permeated the atmosphere. There were no windows in this building, even the door entrance was built out of thick slabs of solid rocks!

The width of the door was roughly about 3m in length, with a height of 4m. Hanging atop the door was a plaque carved with 3 words , “Qing Clan’s Library”!

The stone door to the library was tightly shut. At the end of every year, the library would only be open for a period of two months. During these two months, disciples with cultivation level equal to or higher than the 6th Grade of Martial Warrior would be able to enter the and have the opportunity to select from the vast collection a martial techniques that were suitable for their cultivation. During the other ten months, only direct descendents of the Qing Clan had the opportunity to enter. The remaining disciples could only enter during the last two months of the year.

This was the first time Qing Shui had seen the library. After all, the Qing Clan still had it own rules. Although the collection does not consists of many rare and valuable books, there were still many martial techniques and heterogenous books like the (Continental Medical Annal) lying around.

Other than martial techniques, there were also cultivation arts that were located in the 3rd and 2nd level of the library. Those relatively more common books and martial manuals with a lower grade would usually be placed in the 1st level. Qing Clan’s disciples who reached the required level of cultivation, are allowed to browse through the books and manuals, and even copy them down. The only restriction is that you would not be allowed to divulge the clan techniques to outsiders!

Walking to the entrance, with an exertion of force that could not

be considered light nor heavy, Qing Shui eagerly raised his hands and knocked 3 times on the stone door. “Boom, Boom, Boom” the sound reverberated across the lawn.

After a moment, the heavy stone door opened, a senile looking old man with cloudy eyes and a head full of white hair appeared. Qing Shui stared mutely, the attire of this old man was totally different from what Qing Shui expected from someone like this. The old man looked like he could not be bothered with the slightest bit of personal hygiene, yet his clothes were the epitome of cleanliness.

“Elder Lin, I brought Qing Shui over to the library to borrow some books!” Qing Yi greeted the old man respectfully.

Looking at her smile, Qing Shui felt that Qing Yi had quite a deep relationship with this old man.

“Ah, so it is you, little kiddo Qing Yi, come in, come in! It has been ages since your last visit.” Elder Lin warmly smiled. After saying that, he glanced at Qing Shui. The cloudy look in his eyes was replaced by an instance of clarity, but it quickly faded back to normal.

“So you are Qing Shui, good... very good!” Elder Lin with a face full of smiles, praised Qing Shui twice in succession, Qing Shui felt very surprised, for he knew that Elder Lin rarely complimented people. Even Qing Zi nor the genius Qing You had never received compliments from him before.

“Grandpa Lin, Qing Shui greets you!” Qing Shui bowed low as he respectfully greeted Elder Lin.

“Young man, hahahahaha”, Elder Lin for God knows what reason, had his lips curl up in a smile.

After which, Qing Shui and Qing Yi followed Elder Lin as he led them into the library.

The moment they entered, Qing Shui realized that the space within was much larger than what he had previously imagined, and there was almost no natural light in the library. The only source of light was emitted by the few panels of Jadestone pearls attached to the wall. The light the pearls emitted was soft, but was sufficient for users of the library to read what they wanted to clearly.

Past the panels of the Jadestone pearls, were rows and rows of ancient looking wooden bookshelves. From an initial glance, the wood materials used in construction of the bookshelves looked old and dilapidated, but upon closer observation, the wood was actually thick and heavy, giving observers a solid and durable impression.

With that half-bent back, and that slouching posture, Elder Lin looked so old, one could almost mistake him for a fossil. It was said that Elder Lin had been the caretaker of the Qing Clan’s library since tens of years ago!

“Elder Lin, I want to borrow some books on elementary medical

knowledge for Qing Shui” Qing Yi said.

Elder Lin slowly lumbered towards an inconspicuous corner of the library, and pulled out a few books that were covered with dust. He slightly patted the books to displace the dust and returned.

During the whole process where Elder Lin was retrieving the books, Qing Shui has been constantly monitoring Elder Lin's movements. He had a intuition that this keeper of the library Elder Lin was not the senile and confused old man he appeared to be. Qing Shui had the feeling that this old man in front of him was actually a terrifyingly strong expert! But after that thought flashed past his mind, Qing Shui silently laughed it off. After all, the strongest in the Qing Clan was Qing Luo, how strong could Elder Lin be?

“For a period of 40+ years, these books have just been lying there collecting dust... There was no one who would even deign to look at them. Forget it you don't need to return the books after you are done with them. Even if you did not borrow them today, sooner or later I would have chucked these books out. Since no one in the Qing Clan ever reads them, just take it then.” Elder Lin passed the books to Qing Shui as he said expressionlessly.

Qing Shui felt that the Elder Lin today was very strange. The Elder Lin that everyone knew was someone who didn't really talk much, preferring to spend his time in silence and solitude. But today, he was unexpectedly in such a talkative mood!

Qing Shui accepted the books from Elder Lin, the more he

looked, the more he still felt that Elder Lin was hiding his true abilities in an act of clumsiness.

“Thank you, Grandpa Lin!” Qing Shui earnestly thanked Elder Lin. After that, Qing Shui realized that other than the three medical books he had initially requested, there was an additional 4th book which he did not request.

Qing Shui curiously peered at the 4th book, it was titled (Basic Sword Techniques)!

Qing Shui wanted to question Elder Lin, but who would have thought Elder Lin initiated the conversation. “After you are done with the four books, just toss them directly into the trash, you need not bother to send them back.”

Since he was to dispose of them, Qing Shui decided that he might as well keep them; after all, with a title like (Basic Sword Techniques), how profound could the techniques contained in it be? But to the current him, he could still learn something from it! After all, Rome wasn't build in one day, and all lakes and oceans originated from a single drop of water.

Bidding their goodbyes to Elder Lin, the heavy stone door tightly closed as Qing Shui and Qing Yi left the library.

Qing Yi had long regarded Elder Lin as part of her family. Despite his senile and befuddled facade, she knew that deep in his heart, Elder Lin treats the descendants of Qing Clan as his own flesh and blood. Especially Qing Yi, ever since she was young, Elder Lin

would spare no expenses and dote on her. Even now, after the passage of so many years, Qing Yi still respected this old man just as she would have respected Qing Luo.

Feeling elation in his heart, Qing Shui was holding on to the pile of books, in his previous life, he had been too addicted to gaming. Reading books? Visiting the library? Not a chance! Who would have thought that the current Qing Shui, out of his own volition, wanted to browse the Qing Clan's library for books to read!

“Humans were really unpredictably weird!”

AST: Chapter 26 – Continental Medical Annal

After returning to his home in the Qing Mansion, Qing Shui placed the rest of the books on a table, and decided to browse through the contents of the <<Continental Medical Annal>> first.

“Exploring ways to a Healthy Lifestyle”, “The Organs in the Human Body”, “The Meridians and Energy Channels” , “Reasons on how Illnesses Occur”, “Ways to Strengthen your body during the 4 Seasons” were all chapters in the <<Continental Medical Annal>>. Qing Shui continued browsing through the contents until finally he saw..

“Method to nourish one’s vitality, Body and Spirit as one”.

Qing Shui stopped flipping the pages as he found this chapter interesting and thus, had decided to focus in-depth on the above topic.

The 5 emotions in medical terminology refers to joy, anger, anxiety, worry and fear.

Any changes in emotions, no matter how minor, would affect the functions of the internal organs. In every individual, there exists a source of latent energy that when utilized correctly, could make one feel awake and clear-headed, in contrast, when influenced negatively, would result in one being dispirited and listless. This source of latent energy, in chinese medicine was also known as the 5 emotions, but alternatively, when the 5 emotions intermixed,

they are known by another name – spirit.

The stronger one's spirit was, the stronger one's mental strength would be! Everything in nature, follows a cycle; the absolute peak was also the absolute bottom.

Calm your emotions leading to less desires, compose your heart and know fearlessness, quiet your mind and know not of fatigue, achieving a smoother flow of Spiritual Qi, no matter what desires one holds, one would be able to fulfill them! "This was the oracular formula to train one's spirit!"

Just from this sentence, Qing Shui already felt that he had gained tremendous benefits, at the same time, he also understood the reasoning behind "the oceans were originally formed from a single droplet of water". If he wanted to build a strong foundation, he should truly spend his time completely comprehending these basic bits of knowledge.

Qing Shui continued reading about the interactions between the 5 emotions and the functions of the internal organs.

"Happiness affects the heart, Anger affects the liver, Worry affects the lungs, Anxiety affects the mind, and Fear affects the kidneys." The 5 emotions had an intimate relationship with the functions of the human body. Spirit too, was of paramount importance. The stronger the spirit, the stronger mental strength one would have. Remaining calm in the face of danger, handling affairs in a state of tranquility. These attributes would only appear in humans with strong spirits!

At the side, as Qing Yi saw that Qing Shui was immersed in that state of concentration, happiness bloomed in her heart, but she shook her head helplessly. After all, the young are made of dreams, Qing Yi did not want her son to fall too hard. Did she err when she decided to introduce Qing Shui to the path of Alchemy?

“Sigh, only after he meets some obstacles that cause him to stumble, would he know how tough the road ahead would be.” Qing Yi silently said to herself.

Qing Shui continued reading in greater detail, it was as if he had forgotten that Qing Yi was still in the room. One could sense palpable waves of concentration emitting from Qing Shui in his intense state of focus as he continued reading the book. “The 5 emotions would only transmogrify into the root of illnesses when they are overdrafted. Excessive anger, excessive depression, etc would first cause the body to deteriorate, before damaging the spirit!

Other than damaging the spirit, the negative emotions of “Anger, Anxiety, Worry, Fear” would also adversely affect one’s Yuan Qi.

“Yuan Qi!” Qing Shui heightened his concentration as he came across this term. He understood that Yuan Qi could also be known as the Vital Essence. Vital Essence was the source of energy for humans! In other words, Vital Essence was also Yuan Qi, if one’s Yuan Qi was exhausted, one would lose his life!

All of a sudden, Qing Shui inclined his head and saw Qing Yi’s

dotting gaze looking at him, and as he thought of his earlier actions, of being too engrossed in reading the book to the point of forgetting her existence, Qing Shui fidgeted around as he grinned awkwardly.

“Sorry mother, this book was just too interesting to the point that I lost myself in the midst of concentration.”

“Don’t worry dear, I am very happy. After all, the proverb goes :“only with great will and obsession, would one be able to truly accomplish great things.” It seems like our Shui`er would become a great doctor in the future” Qing Yi warmly smiled. In her speech, she had purposely lowered the target for Qing Shui. She did not want to see this headstrong child of her to feel depressed because of being unable to become an alchemist. After all, the entirety of Qing Clan’s fortune may not even be sufficient to cultivate a common-ranked alchemist.

Qing Shui understood the meaning behind Qing Yi’s phrasing perfectly. In the past when he was younger, even when counting in his experiences and age from his previous world, at most Qing Shui could only be considered a half-grown up kid. His thoughts and mentality had not matured yet. He could only hate the heavens for being unjust, gifting him with a weak constitution, and placing such a huge obstacle on his path to cultivation. However, the Qing Shui now had learnt much from his experiences. Contending himself with the sneers of his family members, tempering his heart and improving his state of mind. The current him actually possessed a mental strength and determination far beyond the norm!

“Mother, there is no need to worry about Shui`er, I have already grown up. Let me be the shield for you to rely on when you are sad or tired, and the halberd to attack your enemies should anyone dare to slight or bully you. No matter what mother wishes for, I would definitely accomplish it. Woe betides those who doubt me.” Qing Yi was extremely touched when she heard those words, she struggled to contained herself before happily bursting out with laughter.

How could she be unhappy, her son had finally grown up!

“Mother, I will be leaving tomorrow, and as promised, I won’t venture too far and will return to the Qing Clan before the year has ended. Mother can rest assured that I have sufficient power to protect myself.” Qing Shui reassured Qing Yi again and again, as he did not want Qing Yi to be worried for him.

Qing Yi felt a warmth in her heart as she softly sighed. The thing she has dreaded most had finally come, and could not be put off any longer. She patted Qing Shui on his head as she lost herself in memories of the past. “Sigh... how fast my child grew up.”

“Mother, you must be careful too alright, regardless of what will happen in the future, even if the Qing Clan loses its entire fortune, the money we lost could be slowly earned back. Please remind grandpa not to be impulsive, I just want all of you to be safe.” Qing Shui gravely reminded Qing Yi, with sincerity apparent in his eyes.

Tears flowed down her face as Qing Yi sobbed silently. Qing Shui understood that she was involuntarily reminded of that man... that man who was his father, that man who had abandoned them!

Looking at the forlorn and helpless expression on her face, Qing Shui gritted his teeth and silently vowed. “I must seek redress sooner or later, and quickly gain strength to accomplish the wishes in mother’s heart.”

From the ramblings Qing Yi had let slip when he was still an infant, Qing Shui knew that his father was probably from an extremely powerful clan. In any case, he knew that even if he could increase his strength, unless he made a breakthrough to the Xiantian realm, it would still be insurmountably tough for him alone to clash against an ancient clan that had existed for over a thousand years.

AST: Chapter 27 & 28 – Off to the 1,000,000 Li Mountains

The second morning, Qing Shui opened his eyes, a cheery smile hung upon his lips.

Finally, Qing Shui had managed to achieve 48 cycles of qi circulation per activation of his Ancient Strengthening Technique, it was as if all his pores were shivering in delight.

Since 5 years ago, Qing Shui had been stuck at the bottleneck at the peak of the 3rd heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Throughout these past five years, he did not slack off at all. He still unceasingly practiced his cultivation daily, and now he finally had something to show for all his efforts. Since five years ago, when he was at the peak of the 3rd heavenly layer, with each activation of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui would be able to circulate his Qi up to 36 times. The current him, despite still being stuck on the peak of the 3rd layer, could actually cycle his Qi more than 48 times per activation!

Through trial and error, Qing Shui discovered that with each additional cycle of Qi Circulation, the more his strength would increase. This was perhaps the only consolation for him as he still could not break through to the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Who knows, just from increasing his bodily strength, there may be one day he might be able to break through the bottleneck... Like a dying man clutching at straws to save his life, Qing Shui could not disregard the probability of that happening no matter how low that probability was.

Throughout these past five years, although Qing Shui only managed to increase the number of circulations from 36 cycles to 48 cycles, he was required to put in efforts 100 times that of others. Just with this increase of 12 cycles of circulation, his strength had directly upgraded from being able to lift 10,000 jin to 13,000 jin, an approximate 30% increase in strength! If he could cultivate to the point where he could circulate 108 cycles or more per activation, Qing Shui didn't even dare to imagine how tyrannical his strength would be then... This way of circulating the Qi originated from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, it seems to Qing Shui that there exists no peak, or more accurately, no limit to the maximum number of cycles one could cultivate. But just only increasing 12 cycles actually took him five years of time... He didn't know how long would it take for him to cultivate to the stage of 108 cycles or more.

Alas, he was unable to break through to the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. If he could do so, there was no need for him to laboriously slowly increase the number of cycled circulations. He would directly receive a colossal upgrade in strength! After all the 4th heavenly layer could be considered the mid tier of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. It was an entirely different realm when compared to before.

Leaping out of his bed, Qing Shui proceeded to open his door, walking towards his backyard just as the sun was rising. Ever since he could cultivate the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he had been the most diligent and dedicated cultivator in the entire Qing Clan.

Maybe it was because of the Yin-Yang symbol inside his sea of consciousness constantly nourishing his spirit and soul, but Qing

Shui had an excellent fortitude and mental strength when compared to others. His current self only required 2 hours of sleep per day. The rest of the time when Qing Shui was awake, almost all of it was spent in cultivation!

Despite this, he was unable to shake off the label of trash, just why couldn't he break through? Even though his true current strength could be considered at the peak of the Martial Warrior realm, this meager bit of strength was not even worth a fart in his eyes. Only with sufficient power, would he be able to do as he wishes, and protect the things he wanted to protect.

Reincarnation – checked.

Talent – checked

Intelligence – checked

Fortuitous Encounters – checked

But why was he still unable to break through!? Just what had he done to deserve this? Qing Shui bitterly smiled as he arrived at the spacious courtyard. His thoughts then drifted to the various encounters he had after he had started cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Solitary Rapid Fist!

Qing Shui knew that the Solitary Rapid Fist technique was probably one of the more profound striking techniques. His skill in executing the Solitary Rapid Fist had already reached an unfathomably high level, almost to the point of perfection. It was all thanks to that bout of enlightenment he had before, if it was not

for that, even if he had spent 10 years training this fist technique, he would still be far away from the realm he was currently in! Qing Shui held extreme confidence in the Solitary Rapid Fist, and his confidence was well founded. If not, there would definitely be no way for Qing Yi to suffer disadvantages in a spar just with the exchange of a single move. Not to mention, he refrained from using his internal Qi. One could only imagine how terrifying his strikes would be if Qing Shui used his internal Qi to complement the strikes of the Solitary Rapid Fist.

The Solitary Rapid Fist was immeasurably deep. The underlying concepts and essence behind the Solitary Rapid Fist were steeped in the arts of hidden weapons techniques. Both techniques shared the same foundation. To measure the level of profoundness would be impossible to do so accurately, as hidden weapon techniques would usually enable a weaker practitioner to achieve victory over a stronger one.

After his reflections, Qing Shui knew that it was time to leave. He returned to his room and packed the [Continental Medical Annal], [10,000 Herbology Encyclopedia], [Herbal Combination Formula] and lastly, the [Basic Sword Techniques]. After which, he decided to write a letter and left it on top of the table. The contents included in the letter was him reassuring Qing Yi, and that he would be back before the end of the year. Beseeching her to bid farewell to the other elders on his behalf.

Surrounding the Qing Clan, other than the rivers in the east and the south, the only other notable land feature was a vast plot of fertile land that was suitable for farming. If one followed the eastern river, one would be able to reach the Hundred Miles City. Of course, the path would not be able to lead you directly into the

Hundred Miles City, as there were many small villages and towns situated on the road to Hundred Miles City.

The Qing Clan had absolute authority over a radius of 100 Li, many of the smaller clans nearby earned a living by farming or hunting under the protection of the Qing Clan.

Qing Shui departed the Qing Village and headed towards a western direction. The west of the Qing Village consisted of mountains and the Greenwood Forest. Further ahead of him was the Greenwood forest where he had met the Golden Direwolf. Qing Shui decided to proceed up the western mountains and traverse beyond them to reach the 1,000,000 Li Mountains. He chose this route to temper himself, and thus gain benefits for his cultivation.

With a small bag on his back, Qing Shui left the Qing Clan seemingly unprepared. He only brought the 4 books, 2 sets of clean clothes and some dried rations. As he walked towards the western mountains, he was ceaselessly complaining to himself again. "Lame backpack, stupid backpack, where the hell are my storage rings? Damn this piece of shitty backpack!"

The grumbling lasted for about the time an incense stick takes to burn [1]. Qing Shui had finally reached the bottom of the western mountains! With the damnable backpack on his back, Qing Shui chose a path up the mountains after searching the nearby ground for 2 stones the size of goose eggs and equipping them in his hands.

The mountainous region nearby was filled with danger. The wild beasts did not pose a threat to him, but if he ran into a beast of the ferocious or desolate grade, that would prove to be an entirely

different matter. After all, he was out in the wilds, it would be safer if he was armed.

In this world of the 9 provinces, beasts can be categorized into 4 different levels. Wild Beast, Ferocious Beast, Desolate Beast, Demonic Beast. The ones with the weakest attack powers would be classified as the wild beasts. The demonic beasts are beasts who had already formed a demonic core in them. Their strength could be directly inferred from their age, the longer they had lived the more terrifying their level of strength would be! It was said that even Xiantian cultivators would not be able to prevail over demonic beasts of the same level! It appeared that the golden direwolf Qing Shui met earlier was only of the ferocious grade.

Qing Shui knew that cultivators who only chose to live a safe and stable life when compared to one who tread the perilous way, would be akin to a egg compared to a stone. Those who did not enter battle would not be able to go far in the long run! That was precisely why Qing Shui decided to head to the 1,000,000 Li Mountains! He wanted to gain combat experiences, and at the same time temper his state of mind and find an opportunity to break through!

Only while being out in the wilderness would one even begin to strive to gain an understanding of the Heavens and Earth. To comprehend the meaning of life, through contemplating the spiritual significance of the five elements in nature!

Every day, other than spending his time in cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui would briefly study the contents of the 4 books he brought with him. Currently, the

only book which he was fully immersed in understanding its contents was the [Continental Medical Annal]. Qing Shui could not help but exclaim in wonder, the knowledge of the ancients were at the very least on par or could even be considered superior when compared to the modern medicine in his previous world!

People say that a excellent practitioner of the martial arts would also be half a medical scholar as well. Excellent martial artists would have some knowledge on the medical arts pertaining to injuries and wounds, and the meridians and acupoints of the human body. Qing Shui continued reading, and was not surprised to find that the facts recorded in the book was actually consistent with the information he unlocked with the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Only when Qing Shui arrived at the foot of the 1,000,000 Li Mountains, did he truly know the true meaning of the word “spacious”. In his line of sight, as far as his eyes could see, the surrounding region was filled with majestic peaks and mountains, seemingly endless.

“Xuuuu” At this instant, a light breezy mountain wind begin to rise and blew past Qing Shui. As it was the summer season now, the light mountain wind was a welcome change to alleviate the heat of the summer sun. Qing Shui begin traversing the mountain path by executing Ghostly Steps! He wanted to cultivate it to the point where he could unconsciously execute each step with the minimum amount of strength required.

A week had passed, in this period of time, Qing Shui did not know exactly how far had he traversed. He only knew that he climbed five mountains and slew over 300 wild and ferocious grade beasts. Out of these 300 beasts, there was a particular battle with an Earthen Gigantic Elephant that filled him with much excitement.

Initially, Qing Shui was nervous to be facing against such an opponent. The Earthen Gigantic Elephant had a body size of 5m in height and 15m in length! How would he be able to fight on equal grounds with it? To clash directly with it was pure madness! In terms of strength and body size, there was no way Qing Shui would be comparable to it, thus Qing Shui had no choice but to temporarily retreat.

Although the elephant was colossal in size, and with a hide with the toughness of steel plates, there was no hindrance to its movements! With speed that one would not have expected from that massive frame of body, its muscles flowed together in perfect harmony as the elephant sped over to Qing Shui, causing tremors that shook the ground with each step it took.

Taking measure of his opponent and his own strength, Qing Shui knew that the current him did not have the power to injure this ferocious beast. If he wanted to prevail, he had to use his wits instead! Advancing in the guise of retreat, by using the Ghostly Steps, Qing Shui led the Earthen Gigantic Elephant through a series of wild dances before strategically baiting it to a point near the cliff. Using his swiftness and agility, Qing Shui execute the Ghostly Steps to dodge the killing blow unleashed. A moment later, he appeared behind the elephant and with his full explosive strength, he threw a fist aiming at one of its massive hind legs,

succeeding in his attempt to push the elephant off the cliff.

“Kacha~” The sound of bones breaking resounded as the elephant beast plummeted with a tragic cry filled with rage and misery!

After a glance at the giant corpse at the foot of the mountains, Qing Shui stared dumbly at his own hands, even though he a strength of 13,000 jin, it still took the entirety of his strength to deliver the killing blow. A smile broke out on his face as hints of savage victory filled his heart. So this was how the ruler of the wilds felt like. By using his own strength and wits, he had caused the Earthen Gigantic Elephant to be smashed beyond recognition!

This bout had made Qing Shui appreciate the Ancient Strengthening Technique even more... If he had cultivated using normal methods, the strength gained from them would pale in comparison to the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and his defeat would be unquestionable. The Ancient Strengthening Technique was undoubtedly the strongest strengthening technique, and when cultivated to its zenith the refinement of his body would be comparable even to the Gods and Demons!

Although he was content with the victory, there exists a more pressing problem in front of him. Qing Shui had already run out of drinkable water! He had also not come across any water sources or beasts in the last 3 days.

“Damn, I’m in trouble. Without a water source, there would naturally be no beasts nearby, no wonder I had no other encounters for the past 3 days.” Wetting his parched lips with his saliva, Qing Shui frowned. All of a sudden, a huge shadow blotted

out the sunlight. “Huh?” Qing Shui inclined his head in surprise, and swiftly after, his expression changed drastically for the worst.

AST: Chapter 29 – The Line Between Life and Death

“Huh?” Qing Shui inclined his head in surprise, and swiftly after, his expression changed drastically for the worst. A gargantuan shadow blotted out the sun and skies as it savagely zoomed towards him. The might of the wind force generated by the flapping of those huge wings was tremendously powerful, to the point where the huge rocks weighing a few hundred jin on the nearby ground were also chaotically rolling about, as if they were bereft of gravity.

Qing Shui immediately channeled his inner Qi down towards the soles of his feet, rooting him to the ground. The stone hidden in his right hand was also charged to the brim with the circulated Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Qing Shui flicked the stone towards the gargantuan body of the huge flying beast and in the same instant, also executed the Ghostly Steps, speedily retreating to some distance away.

Qing Shui decided to target the heart of the flying beast. He knew that with only such a small stone as a weapon, there was no way for him to deal huge amounts of damage to the beast; he would at most only be able to slightly injure it. The only solution left was to target the critical weak spots.

“Xiu!” The stone created a terrifying sound as it soared through the air, with a speed so fast that it was almost to the point of breaking the sound barrier.

“eEeeEKK!” a ear-piercing sound screeched out. Hints of undisguised humiliation and rage filled the cry as the gigantic creature retreated back to the air.

Qing Shui knew that he had missed the heart of the beast, but looking at the blood showering down, akin to the squirting of a fountain, he knew that at the very least, he had managed to injure it.

The current Qing Shui had already retreated to a safe distance away as he took the time to identify the flying beast soaring through the skies. Upon closer observation, Qing Shui was incessantly astonished! The wingspan of this bird was approximately 30-40m wide. The head was similar to a eagle and condor. Its whole body was covered with inky black feathers with only a patch of white on its head.

“3rd Grade Desolate Beast, White-headed Inky Jade Condor!” Qing Shui breathed. He had finally identified the gargantuan flying bird.

Since that time Qing Hai explained the various professions in the Continent of the 9 Provinces to him, Qing Shui did some light research on the beast tamer profession, and also on the descriptions of the various beasts that inhabited this world.

There were a total of 4 levels of beasts. Wild < Ferocious < Desolate < Demonic. And each level could be split into 9 grades. In total, the ranking system for beasts could be ranked from 1st Grade

to the 36th Grade. The White-headed Inky Jade Condor in front of him was of the 21st grade, no wonder the aura it emitted was so terrifying.

Only desolate beasts who had formed a demonic core would be considered to have stepped into the realm of demonic beasts. Even the weakest amongst the demonic beasts had strength comparable to a cultivator of the Xiantian realm. The longer the demonic beast had lived, the stronger it would be, the disparity in strength between each grade at the demonic level could be comparable to the difference between Heavens and Earth!

Qing Shui looked at the White-headed Inky Jade Condor hovering in midair, that gargantuan body was incomparably huge, just the size of the it's leg could be comparable to the girth of a fully grown human male.

He remembered reading in the books he researched previously that the White-headed Inky Jade Condor was prone to nursing grudges. The injury that Qing Shui caused it to suffer earlier was just a small matter. What matters here was the injury Qing Shui had caused to it's pride! From the cold and evil glint in the White-headed Inky Jade Condor's eyes, Qing Shui knew that the bird would never give up on him, not unless one of them died. It was just waiting for an opportunity now to catch Qing Shui off his guard.

Transferring the stone in his left hand to his right, Qing Shui determinedly stared at the White-headed Inky Jade Condor. Maybe, it was the stone in Qing Shui's hand that gave it pause and forced the giant condor to act out of caution. Earlier in that

exchange, the condor could feel an unnatural strength infused in the stone that injured it. Once bitten, twice shy. Now that it knew of Qing Shui's strength, it did not want to rush in blindly and possibly suffer injuries or death due to a moment of impulse!

Licking his parched lips, Qing Shui felt a great thirst bubbling up from inside of him. He had not drank any water for the past three days. In these three days, there weren't even any traces of other flying beasts! Now Qing Shui knew why... it was probably because of this huge condor in front of him. The condor must have been the predator that scared everything away.

This can't carry on, he needs water to sustain his life. If there were other beasts around, he could still drink their blood for sustenance. Coldness flashed in his eyes, " Very well, it seems like today no matter what, I have to think of a way to ensure that this giant condor would not escape."

Despite its huge size, it seemed to be like a fish in water when it was in the air. There was no deterrence to its speed! The aura emitting from it was tyrannical beyond measure, possessing herculean strength, it's condor claws could split mountains and crush rocks. There was also the pair of jet black wings, being struck by it would be akin to disintegrating into piles of dust. Also not to neglect the beak of the White-headed Inky Jade Condor, a single peck would be sufficient to split a human-being into two.

What a majestic presence, what overwhelming strength. Rivulets of sweats were flowing down Qing Shui head, as he was contemplating how best to gain victory against the condor.

Qing Shui was somewhat nervous, but he was not afraid. Not being able to gain victory today would only mean that it was his destiny to die here. “If I can’t even prevail against a single desolate grade flying chicken, why am I still alive? The promises I made to mother was all just words filled with empty air?”

“F*** your mother, this damnable bird is freaking annoying. If you want to fight, get down here and I will be happy to accompany you to the gates of hell. If you don’t want to, just F*** OFF! Why the F*** are you hovering in the air?!” Qing Shui cursed.

However, it seemed that Qing Shui’s cursing was ineffective.

After a while, Qing Shui knew that this was not the solution, he could not stand there like an idiot enabling this feathery bastard to anger him to death!

After thinking for a short while, Qing Shui decided to lie flat on the ground. The remnants of the crumbled 100 jin rocks had been swept clean by the gale force generated by this White-headed Inky Jade Condor when it first swept in to attack Qing Shui earlier. However, in the same instant as he lay down, he also stealthily crumbled a part of the stone cliff, hiding a small stone in his left hand.

Qing Shui closed his eyes, and took a risk. He did not believe that the refinement of his current body with the power of only the 3rd level of Ancient Strengthening Technique would be able to defend against the White-headed Inky Jade Condor’s sharp claws and pointed beak. Those were no ordinary claws or beak, very likely, even if it was Qing Shui, he could not withstand a single blow.

Patience, Qing Shui did not lack. The fact that he assiduously spent all his free time in cultivating already proved that his will power was beyond the norm. He could be patient if he wanted to.

Time passed as the minutes drifted by, Qing Shui squinted his eyes as he peeped out of the corner of his eyes. His body was tensed up, Qing Shui was prepared to to grasp any opportunity that presented itself to perform a one hit kill!

“F*** it, is it even still interested in fighting? F*** its mother, staying in the same position, neither coming down nor flying away.” Qing Shui cursed.

Maybe, some God heard Qing Shui’s prayers as his curses were gradually beginning to affect the bird. That white-headed inky jade condor slowly begin to circle nearer and nearer.

“This cunning feathered bastard, just wait till I catch hold of it!” Qing Shui muttered hatefully.

The White-Headed Inky Jade Condor was no fool, it appears that it was trying to test the waters. Circling closer and soaring out of reach. This continued on for quite some time before it apparently decided to go all in. With a burst of speed akin to lightning, it finally flew towards Qing Shui.

This was the moment he had been waiting for! Qing Shui eyes snapped open, as he flicked both stones in his hands, aiming for the eyes of the White-Headed Inky Jade Condor!

The distance of 10m was covered in an instant! As he flicked out the stone, Qing Shui curled up his arms and legs, adopting the posture of a rabbit as the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique circulated and infused his body.

“EeEKekK”

A shrill voice cried out in shock, but the huge body of the white-headed condor didn't even slow in the slightest. In fact, the speed even increased by a gear!

At the critical moment of impact, Qing Shui's body was akin to a carp leaping out of the water. Gathering Qi in his arms and legs, and borrowing the force of impact, Qing Shui violently made use of his limbs to bounce away. The rebound was incredible, both his arms felt like they were going to break at any moment.

Because of that miss, the White-headed Inky Jade Condor was screeching in displeasure.

Qing Shui looked down at the red patch blossoming in front of his chest, there was a wound the length of a foot long! Blood was unceasingly flowing out from it. Even though he managed to avoid the full brunt of the impact, as Qing Shui had frantically dodged, the tip of the condor's claw still managed to pierce his chest. The injury was bone deep! Although he had managed to escape from certain death, he was still inflicted with heavy injuries!

Looking at the blood flowing unceasingly from the wound, Qing

Shui was shivering from the extreme pain of having his chest sliced open. Feeling bitterness in his heart, could it be that he was really going to lose his life today? In that instant, many things flashed past his eyes, especially thoughts of Qing Yi. Before he left, Qing Shui still repeatedly reassured her that he would take care of himself. He was extremely unwilling to die here just like this!

Qing Shui has yet to help Qing Yi fulfil her wishes, he cannot die here. If he is dead, what would happen to Qing Yi? She would be bereft of support, her only flesh and blood taken away from her. Just imagining that scenario happening actually hurts more than getting sliced open. What will happen if others trampled roughshod on her? No, he gritted his teeth, he cannot die here.

Despite his will, Qing Shui's consciousness was starting to get fuzzy, the blood flowing out from his chest dyed his whole body red, and at the same time some of his blood also splashed upon the worn and tattered Yin-Yang Pendant that he always wore around his neck...

AST: Chapter 30 – Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal

In that instant as his consciousness was fading, the Yin-Yang Pendant came into contact with blood of Qing Shui, after which, the pendant actually took on a dark violet hue! The Yin-Yang Pendant begin to emit waves of soft violet light, slowly enveloping Qing Shui, as if he was an infant that was lying in his mother's embrace. From what the naked eye could see, the pendant seemed to be incessantly drinking in Qing Shui's blood as the waves of violet light got stronger and stronger.

That instant, felt as long as an eternity yet as short as a single second. In that same moment, instead of his fuzzy consciousness, Qing Shui actually felt extremely clear headed, little could he imagine what unbelievable sights would be waiting for him once he opened his eyes.

He clearly remembered that he was in an extremely perilous situation just moments before, he was just about to die with a heart full of grievances and unwillingness born out of the will to protect Qing Yi. But what has happened exactly? The first thing Qing Shui realized when he awoke was that this was no longer the mountainous region he had been in just moments ago, it seems that somehow... the landscape had shifted. The current landscape he was in could be considered relatively cramped. The landscape had a circumference of roughly a 100m, just with a single glance, Qing Shui had a panoramic view of the entire region.

“What am I doing here? Is this the place all humans come to after they die?” Qing Shui stood up as he surveyed his surroundings. He

did an inspection of his own body as he suddenly exclaimed in surprise!

“My injuries have actually healed!?” Qing Shui said in a daze, looking at the bloody and tattered clothes he wore, and that foot-long wound on his chest, he was certain that the fight with the White-Headed Inky Jade Condor was not a hallucination! However... the last thing he remembered was dying, and yet he was not dead!

“Hmm, where is this place, what the hell am I doing in here?” Qing Shui surveyed his surroundings again.

“Ah, there’s water!” Qing Shui’s lips were already chapped, his throat was dry as dust and swollen due to his extreme thirst.

In the middle of this otherworldly landscape was actually a small pool of water!

Oblivious to any danger, Qing Shui ran over and drank his fill. Only after he was satisfied, did he realize that the water which he just drank was unusually delicious. Not only did it sate his thirst and hunger, even his body seemed to be filled with a mysterious source of boundless energy.

It was only at this moment, after his thirst was sated that Qing Shui looked clearly for the first time at this pond of water. The pond had a circumference and depth of about 10m, the water in it seemed to sparkle with the shine of crystals and it looked so pure and pristine, devoid of any pollutants.

“Ai!” Qing Shui felt that this was a day filled with bizarre occurrences. Because now that he had come to his senses, he also discovered a weird looking tree, as well as a stone monument at the side of the pond. This stone monument had a height similar to a full grown human male and had the girth of a giant tree.

The stone monument gave off a stately aura, just as if it was the emperor that held absolute authority in this otherworldly place, dictating the rules to his subjects. As Qing Shui walked in front of it, he saw that there were actually inscriptions on the stone monument! [Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal]... So this place is the realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

At the top of the stone monument, the words [Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal] was written in bold strokes in a calligraphic style. The words were extremely eye catching and emanated a mysterious aura that attracted Qing Shui’s attention.

Directing his gaze downwards, Qing Shui discovered even more inscriptions.

[The realm of the Violet jade immortal only allows entry to the sovereign of this realm. Other than the sovereign, no other human beings are allowed in here, unless they are already dead]

As Qing Shui read the words.. “only allows entry to the sovereign... could it be that I’m the sovereign?” Qing Shui was grasping at straws in the dark, he had totally no clue what was going on. Thus, he decided to continue reading the other

inscriptions on the stone monument for now.

[Time flows at a rate of 100:1 in the realm of the Violet jade immortal compared to the outside world]

Upon reading this made Qing Shui jumped in excitement! Spending a 100 days in this realm was equivalent to a single day outside!

After which there weren't much inscriptions left, only a few more words at the bottom of the stone monument.

[Once the first layer of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had been unlocked, a vigorous looking tree would appear in it. This tree takes a 100 years to mature, and every 100 years, it will produce 10 fruits. The name of the fruits this tree produce are known as the Energy Enhancing Fruits. If ingested by normal humans, this could increase their strength level by 500 jin. Alchemist could use this fruits for pill concoction as well. Note: effect of Energy Enhancing Fruits can only stack 2 times, consuming more is pointless.]

And the rest of the inscriptions at the bottom of the monument are as follow:

Effects of:

[Unlocking the 2nd Layer of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal],

[Unlocking the 3rd Layer of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal], all the way to [Unlocking 9th Layer of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal]

After Qing Shui finished reading the stone monument, he glanced at the sturdy and vigorous looking tree beside it. Could this be the Energy Enhancing Tree that he read about in the inscription on the stone monument? The tree was roughly about 2m in height, with branches the thickness akin to a steel pillar from his previous world. Despite the branches of the Energy Enhancing Tree being extremely short in length, only about 1 foot long, they still looked strong and solid.

Qing Shui peered upwards, and saw 10 glistening blood red fruits hanging from the branches of the Energy Enhancing Tree, emitting an extremely alluring smell that made him salivate. Now, Qing Shui already had a rough idea that what the existence of this spatial realm meant to his future cultivation. A grin broke out on Qing Shui's face as he thought of the future possibilities. "Within this realm, normal restrictions no longer apply to me! There is nothing I can't accomplish. I don't believe I would still be unable to breakthrough to the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!"

"Sigh, what a pity that this realm was only usable by the one person, if not Qing Hu and Qing Bei could enjoy the benefits here too. Well, it's fine that way too, I can't let anyone know about this secret. Humans would already be willing to commit murder for gains significantly less valuable than this. I must not invite a calamity upon myself." Qing Shui decided.

Qing Shui did not know how much time elapsed, he had already thoroughly explored the landscape of the Violet Jade Immortal Realm. The spatial realm was approximately the size of 1 hectare. Looking at the loose purple soil beneath his sole, he felt that this space was excellent for crop planting.”

After exploring the spatial realm, Qing Shui realized that there was no exit! How could he return to the world outside?

Just at the precise moment he thought of exiting, he realized that he was already back in the mountainous region where he had been previously! It seems that the Violet Jade Immortal Realm was already attuned to his will.

“Enter!”

“Exit!”

“Enter!”

“Exit!”

With the slightest intent of his will, he could enter and exit the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Qing Shui happily experimented with it, just like a small child playing with his favourite toy.

After that, Qing Shui silently mused for a long while, “How did this Violet Jade Immortal Realm suddenly appeared? And why did it choose me?” Despite his intelligence, he still had no conclusions and thus decided to temporarily ignore the mystery. Anyway, it was not something disadvantageous for him.

Following which, Qing Shui inspected his attire. Laughing bitterly as he looked at the tattered clothes on his body, Qing Shui took a fresh set of clothes from his backpack and proceeded to change. It was at this moment that he realized that the Yin-Yang Pendant which he had always wore around his neck had disappeared!

Qing Shui frantically did a search of the surroundings and even entered the spatial realm again, but he could not find any clues relating to the disappearance of the Yin-Yang Pendant! “Could the disappearance of the Yin-Yang Pendant be related to the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal?”

Currently, if only Qing Shui could view his own reflection, he would have stopped the search for the pendant. Because, situated right in the middle of Qing Shui’s eyebrow, was a speck of violet-colored pearl the size of a bean. The pearl was shaped exactly like the Yin-Yang Pendant! It had somehow unknowingly amalgamated with Qing Shui after he fainted.

The speck of violet pearl that destiny arranged, situated between his brows were akin to an artist adding the vital final touch to a masterpiece, adding on a hint of otherworldly magnetism to Qing Shui’s already charming eyes. Previously, Qing Shui could already be considered good looking, but now with that hint of magnetism,

the aura he exuded could only said to be extraordinary.

Since the pendant was missing, there was no need to keep the chain of the pendant as well. Qing Shui threw the chain away as he changed into a new set of clothes, and only after that, did the disappearance of the White-headed Inky Jade Condor occur to him. Qing Shui inclined his head, looking about. He finally spotted the corpse of the White-Headed Inky Jade Condor somewhere far off in the distance.

“It died?” Qing Shui walked over, and after a brief inspection, realized that the cause of death was the 2 stones he flicked out earlier! The 2 stones had hit their target and were lodged in the eyes of the white-headed condor. “How terrifying, was its pride really that important? Despite being injured, it still wanted to perish with me.” “The impact from earlier when it tried to smash me to death must have caused the stones lodged in its eyes to penetrate its brain. What a tragic death!”

“In any case, it looks like I’m having barbequed White-Headed Inky Jade Condor for dinner tonight.” (TL: xD xD yummy~)

AST: Chapter 31 – Limitations of the Spatial Realm

“In any case, it looks like I’m having barbequed White-Headed Inky Jade Condor for dinner tonight.”

After Qing Shui knew of the various enchantments and effects of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he couldn’t help but grin even in his sleep. Now, with him being the sovereign of a spatial realm, there was no need for him to carry a backpack any longer. And how could the storage rings in the legends even compare to this? No, they can’t even be mentioned in the same breath. Qing Shui could not help but to burst out into raucous laughter. That laugh seemed to consolidate all his anger, anxiety and worries that had been burdening his heart, and disperse them all together as gales of laughter that rang out.

From his now useless backpack, Qing Shui took out a knife, flint, salt, and a cup made out of porcelain, and after which, he search the surroundings of the mountains for dry, thin branches that could be used as firewood.

“Stare at your father, me, more, you stupid chicken, if looks could kill back then, I know that I would already be dead. Go on, don’t you like hovering in the air and staring at me? You stupid flying chicken, now I want you to look at me as I barbeque your chicken drumstick. After all, the tendons and muscles are thick without excessive fat, seems to be pretty good as a supplement and eating it should be able to provide nourishment for my own legs.” Qing Shui said vehemently, with a sardonic glint in his eyes, as he began to defeather and wash the poor condor.

Previously, a few days before, Qing Shui almost died of thirst. But now, suddenly, he had an abundance of water! Qing Shui took the water from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. As he washed the carcass, he couldn't help but feel that it was a waste. After all, the water from the crystal pond possessed mystical properties, but to use it to wash a carcass? He couldn't help but to shake his head. Also, Qing Shui was unsure if the water used up would be replenished by the spatial realm and as such, he set a water marker to gauge the water level. From his observations, this pool should be able to contain 800,000 liters of water.

Qing Shui cut a large piece of flesh from the hind-leg of the giant condor, and began roasting it after he started a fire. This was the first time Qing Shui was doing the barbecuing personally. Previously, he had only observed members of the Qing Clan doing it. Now that he tried it for himself, Qing Shui could tell that it was not as easy as it looked to be!

The aftermath of his first experiment in cooking resulted in the meat being either being too charred to be eaten or too raw. Only after experimenting a few times could he successfully barbecue a piece of meat that could barely be considered edible...

Heedless to the dangers of eating uncooked meat, Qing Shui began digging in with relish. After all, this was the first time he was roasting meat, Qing Shui ate the meal he prepared with gusto. After his hunger was satiated, he look at the carcass of the giant condor. The size of it was so gigantic, despite Qing Shui's many experiments in cooking earlier, the reduction in mass was barely noticeable.

After which, Qing Shui decided to store the remains of the carcass in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui could not help but to exclaim again, “Ahh, this must be fate, who would have thought that the heavens are so good to me? The pendant which I randomly picked up was actually a heavenly treasure! Nothing in the world could make me happier, not even bedding a top grade ravishing beauty!” Although Qing Shui had not had his first taste of women yet, he was in no hurry. He knew that in this world, strength and power were the absolute authority. If one was strong enough, they could even forcibly snatch the woman away. Who would dare to contradict him then? Absolute power was what he sought after! In comparison, this treasured pendant, one did not know how much karmic merits they would have to accumulate over many lifetimes before they could obtain it!

As his thoughts drifted to the injury he received, he was reminded of the pendant which hung on his neck. “Damn, in the future whenever I get anything, I must drip my blood on it to test it. Who knows, that which appears torn and tattered, could be another heavenly treasure. If in the off-chance I miss anything, there is no point crying over spilt milk!”

After that battle with the giant condor, and discovery of the spatial realm, followed by the cooking of the carcass, the sun was already setting. The resplendent rays of light shined upon the whole region, dying the mountains with a golden glow. Especially for a few mountain peaks, the golden resplendent rays of light shining on them actually made them emit a sort of majestic presence, akin to that of Golden Buddha statues.

The current Qing Shui had never been so excited before in his life. His current state could only be described as something similar to the “second stage of enlightenment taught by Buddha himself – seeing mountain as not a mountain, seeing river as not a river.” [1] Even if there was a pile of dog shit in front of him, he could also be certain that it would be able to germinate good crops from there.

“Forget it, I shall go and cultivate inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Hahaha! A time ratio of 100:1, I must abuse it to the maximum!” Qing Shui teleported to inside the spatial realm with a mere intention of his will. Now that he was calmer, he discovered that the air here was saturated with an abundance of thick spiritual energy, even more so than the world outside!”

Qing Shui sat down cross-legged, entering into the state of meditation and activated the Ancient Strengthening Technique emanating an air of profoundness.

1 Cycle of Qi Circulation, 2 Cycle of Qi Circulation.....

The past 5 years, Qing Shui manage to cultivate from 36 cycles of circulation to 48 cycles currently. This time when he activated the Ancient Strengthening Technique, it came as no surprise that he peaked at 48 cycles. More haste less speed, Qing Shui was not anxious. After all, Qing Shui had only recently broken through to 48 cycles. He did not want to rush and as a result suffer from Qi Deviation.

As the time passed, Qing Shui cultivated slowly without haste,

whenever he was tired, he took a break. Whenever he was thirsty, he drank some water. He went on like this, relentlessly practicing his cultivation with a will like a madman, also training his Ghostly Steps, Solitary Rapid Fist, and the art of hidden weapon techniques continuously. Qing Shui also had completely read all 3 of the medical books which he brought along with him. After all, with a time ratio of 100:1, he wanted to abuse this effect to the maximum, if not it would be a waste.

Cultivating in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui was uncertain of how many days had passed inside it. All he knew was that the earlier barbecued meat had already been finished by him. Now, he was subsisting on water and the dried rations which he had bought from the Qing Clan.

After getting frustrated chewing on the dried rations, Qing Shui decided to exit the spatial realm in preparation for roasting some meat again. This time round, after so many failed experiments, Qing Shui could finally roast something that was edible, and Qing Shui also discovered another effect of the spatial realm. Apparently, food in there would remain fresh with no hints of decay! There was no change in the condition of the food and it would remain the same state as when it entered.

After Qing Shui was done roasting the meat, as he prepared to re-enter the spatial realm, he suddenly stopped and appeared dumbstruck! For some reason, he discovered that he could not enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal!

“Huh why am I barred from entering?” Qing Shui refused to believe it, and persisted in trying to enter... Looking at the skies,

Qing Shui deduced that about 2 hours must have passed, and in these past 2 hours he must have tried entering it over a 1000 times! He had no choice but to conclude that there seemed to be some sort of limitation and rules set to entering the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Every 2 hours spent outside the spatial realm, was equivalent roughly to 16 days inside it. During the time when he was drinking water from the crystal pond, Qing Shui had already noticed the speck of violet-colored pearl situated right in the middle of his brows! The moment he saw it, Qing Shui already knew that this was a mini version of the pendant which had always hung on his neck.

Looking at his current features, Qing Shui could not help but to slightly frown. He could be considered relatively good looking with exquisite features. “Damn, I must be more masculine, if not people would mistake me for a sissy. Wuwu, nevermind, after second thoughts, in the future if I ever run into a desperate situation, I could depend on this handsome mug of mine to beg for meals.” Qing Shui was trying to find humor in a desperate situation.

“Argh I don’t have time to joke.” Trepidation filling his heart, Qing Shui persisted in trying again and again to enter the spatial realm, but to no avail. Rivulets of sweat appeared after the repeated failures made him immeasurably frustrated.

“F*** this shit, please stop pranking your father, damn it, If I can’t go in again, I might just as well jump down the mountain” Qing Shui desperately cursed, only when there were no people would he allow himself to lose control like that, with profanities

spewing from his lips.

After the sun setted and the skies were dark, Qing Shui was still trying to enter the spatial realm. Qing Shui persisted in trying to enter every hour. Unknowingly, it was already approaching midnight, arriving at the Zi period*. TL Note: Zi period – the time between 11 pm and 1 am.

Tonight, the moon was full, silvery white light cascading down, softly illuminating the mountain. What a pity Qing Shui was not in the mood to appreciate the fine scenery. He was already going crazy with anxiety, occasionally extending his hand to feel the jade pendant embedded between his brows, heaving a sigh of relief every time he discovered that it was still there.

For the next hour, Qing Shui persisted in trying to enter the spatial realm again and again, but... he was still unable to gain entry. No matter what he did, he was unable to calm his fretful heart down!

After the Zi period had passed, Qing Shui tried again. To his surprise, he finally managed to succeed! The instant when he had entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal almost made tears come out of his eyes... He finally succeeded after countless hours of trying.

“Exit!”

“Enter!”

“Exit!”

“Enter!”

.....

As if he was trying to make up for the all the times which he failed to enter previously, Qing Shui experimented again and again.

After a few days, Qing Shui finally discovered the reason! The longest period that the spatial realm allowed the user to stay in, was a period of about 15-16 days, equivalent to 2 hours in the outside world. Every night, after the Zi period has passed, the whole cycle would reset, and the user would be able to spend another 16 days inside the spatial realm.

“Why did the Violet Jade Immortal not inscribed this rule on the stone monument, freaking causing me to worry for nothing.” After Qing Shui discovered the limitations of using the spatial realm, he became much more relaxed. In these few days, the profanities which he spewed, were even more than what he had said in his entire lifetime!

In the next few days, Qing Shui would always stay in the spatial realm before he was forcefully ejected. 2 hours on the outside was equivalent to 16 days in the spatial realm! Making use of this effect, Qing Shui took the chance to completely read and memorize all the contents of the 3 medical books which he had brought. After undergoing his body transformation and acquiring the Yin-Yang

symbol in his sea of consciousness, Qing Shui discovered that his memorization power and comprehension level had already reached a terrifying stage..

“<<Basic Sword Techniques>>, it’s about time I read this.”

[1] 2nd stage of Buddha Enlightenment – Scroll down to the 2nd commentator. It’s freaking profound, I can’t even understand a single shit lol

Apparently there are 3 stages to this.

- a) see mountain as mountain, see river as river
- b) see mountain as not a mountain, see river as not a river
- c) so the mountain was still a mountain, the river was still a river

TL Note: The previous Chapter, the author stated the time ratio was [100:1], but in this chapter, the author states that 2 hours in the outside world is equivalent to 15-16 days in the spatial realm. After some calculations if 2 hours = 16 days, the exact ratio should be [192:1]. I’m too lazy to do the calculations for 2 hours = 15 days lol. Not too sure if the author made a mistake in this.. well, for now just enjoy the story first, i will edit in the future after reading the raws.

AST: Chapter 32 – <<Basic Sword Techniques>>

After he finished reading the 3 medical books, Qing Shui felt that he had benefited immensely from the contents within. Especially from the <<Herbal Combination Formula>>, this book listed and explained the effects one would get by mixing various herbs together. For example, in some cases, when mixing two types of herbs of the healing element together, the end product may end up being poisonous. Conversely, when mixing two types of poisonous herbs, depending on their properties, the two herbs could actually end up complementing each other, nullifying the poisonous elements within and form an end product that could save lives!

The thick <<Herbal Combination Formula>> book mainly speaks of the complex relations and interactions between herbal properties, such as “warm”, “cold”, “wet”, “hot”, “cool”. The book also explains the effects and things to take note of when mixing medicine in great detail.

After receiving the nourishment of the Yin-Yang symbol in his sea of consciousness, Qing Shui’s memory could be said to have become perfect. Despite being unable to comprehend the entirety of the detailed information in such a short amount of time, he was still able to engrave the information in his mind. Every time he needed something, he could just refer to the information stored in his brain, akin to flipping the pages of a book.

In all job professions, the intricacies of each would be wide-ranging and profound.

Qing Shui knew that his wish to embark on the path of an alchemist could still be considered as extremely distant. It was unlike alchemists in MMORPGs, who could just throw a few herbs inside a cauldron and poof, a pill would be concocted. How could being an alchemist be so simplistic? Not to mention, in this world's 9 continents, the alchemist profession was the one with the harshest conditions and highest requirements!

Taking one step at a time, with an effort that was worth 100 times, nay, 1000 times of others, and unyielding determination! These were all qualities that Qing Shui possessed, and in addition to his recently acquired spatial realm, they made him immensely confident.

Qing Shui could only enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal for 2 hours a day. After that, the natural limitations of the spatial realm would kick into place. This means that, for him, a single day could be compared to 15 days for others! Qing Shui was no fool, he deeply treasured the time lengthening effect of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and seized every chance he could to cultivate in there.

Normally, Qing Shui would purposely select the time period (9pm-11pm) to enter the spatial realm. This way, after the Zi period (11pm-1am), the limitations would reset and he could immediately use it again. During the daytime, Qing Shui would travel or slay beasts that were unfortunate enough to cross his path. However, ever since the encounter with the 3rd Grade Desolate Beast, White-Headed Inky Jade Condor, Qing Shui had no other dangerous encounters.

The fiery sun in the sky fiercely shone down on Qing Shui's body, yet his body was entirely devoid of sweat. His body looked akin to a lithe leopard, with his muscles corded, yet not rigidly stiff.

Ever since Qing Shui obtained the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, the lines of worries on his face had smoothed, making him appear more carefree and relaxed.

“F*** it, with my current looks, if I was in my previous world, I would be a top grade gigolo, dancing with the filthy rich cougars, eating them up and earning their money. However now, in this World of the Nine Continents, looks are useless! What I want is power, power!” Everytime Qing Shui looked at his charming countenance in the water's reflection, he began to involuntarily cuss.

Qing Shui's features were exquisite, without any hints of femininity. Either by nature or design, there was a look of cold indifference reflected on his face. Charisma reflected off the irises in his beautiful eyes. And the violet-colored pearl situated in the middle of his brows, actually had the feeling akin to a master painter adding the finishing touches, granting life to a portrait.

Despite Qing Shui gloomily messing up his hair, he was still good looking. In addition to that, there was the absence of even an ounce of excess fat on his graceful and lithe body. People looking at him would have nothing but compliments about his good looks.

On his journey, Qing Shui knew that as long as there were water sources, there would be beasts nearby. In this case, he did not need to worry about not having enough to eat! After his countless

experiments with barbecuing, his skills could be said to have reached an unfathomably high level. The meat he roasted, be it the color or the taste and smell, were all of a high quality.

After travelling for an entire day, Qing Shui went in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal to rest, after that he started to cultivate. Qing Shui's current cultivation level only allowed him to hit the 48 cycles of circulated Qi. He clearly remembered that during the first heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, the requirement was to hit the 12 cycles of circulated Qi. At the second heavenly layer, the requirement was 24 cycles of circulated Qi. Now, at the third heavenly layer, the requirement was 48 cycles of circulated Qi... Could it be that for him to break into the next heavenly layer, following the pattern so far, he would need to cultivate to double the 48 cycles? To 96 cycles?

As he pondered, Qing Shui could not help but recall the instance when he broke through from 12 cycles to 13 cycles and 24 to 25 cycles of circulated Qi.

Bottleneck? Obstacles?

After contemplating, Qing Shui sighed, he knew that the path of cultivation was not easy to advance on. First, let's not talk about breaking through to 49 cycles. Even after that, he still had to hit 96 cycles, 192 cycles and 386 cycles...

No wonder that practicing the Ancient Strengthening Technique to its zenith would allow one to gain a body comparable to the Gods and Demons. The practitioner would have his strength increased by increasing the number of circulation cycles. They

would possess tyrannical might just based on their body strength alone!

Everytime he encountered a bottleneck, Qing Shui would circulate his Qi in order to break through. The backlash was no joke, in the past 5 years, any breakthroughs of 1 cycle to the next, would entail Qing Shui breaking through a bottleneck! Even though the bottleneck from one cycle to another was small, the pain was still extremely excruciating!

The Ancient Strengthening Technique holds two major bottlenecks. The first was from the 3rd layer to the 4th layer, breaking from lower to middle tier, and the second was from the 6th layer to the 7th layer, breaking from middle to top tier!

Circulating his Qi based on the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui repeatedly tried to break through the barrier of the 48th cycle into the 49th to no avail. That obstacle was as unyielding as a huge mountain, and try as he might, he was still unable to budge it the slightest. Qing Shui gritted his teeth, ignoring and enduring the pain! This was precisely the point of the Ancient Strengthening Technique! Making use of the pain from the backlash in order to temper one's body!

Sighing, Qing Shui decided to rest for now. It looks like it would not be so simple to break through the major bottleneck to the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Qing Shui took out the few books he had as he decided to use his time to fully comprehend the contents in each book. After taking them out his gaze fell to a rest on the untouched <<Basic Sword

Techniques>>, although he had not yet read the book, he knew that the teachings in it would not be too profound. After all, the basic sword techniques, as its name stated, formed the basis of every swordplay in the World of the Nine Continents. As long as one was a user of the sword, at some point, one would surely have read this book!

Frowning, Qing Shui narrowed his eyes in suspicion. Why would such a common book have a spot in our Qing Clan Library?

“Forget it, I shall take a look first. Everyone in the World of the Nine Continents knows that the techniques within the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> are the lowest grade of sword play. Not to mention low grade, they are so weak that they can be considered as ungraded. Despite that, the foundations of every sword user is built from this! Most of the sword users read the book when they were young and only moved onto the more advanced sword arts after they mastered these basic techniques.

Flipping open the first page of the <<Basic Sword Techniques>>, the first page, other than listing out the title of the book, also had a parenthesis that marked the book in his hands as the initial volume. <<Basic Sword Techniques>> (Beginner). Could it be that there were (Intermediate) and (Profound) levels as well?

Ignoring this, he continued reading, “Introduction to Swords”.

The sword, was reputed to be the first amongst the myriad of weapons, emitting an intent of benevolence, suffused with a heroic aura! It could also be considered as the God of weapons and also possessed an air of elegance. So what makes up a sword? A sword

comprises of the following: Sword Body, Sword Tip, Sword Sharpness, Sword Core, Sword Spine, Sword Edge, Sword Frame, Sword Hilt and Sword Sheath.

Following the introduction, next up was the various sword postures and methods. The main methods of attacking positions consist of: Hooking, Hanging, Pointing, Carrying, Piercing, Slicing, Hacking! During practice, the way of the sword requires the sword to follow one's body, the sword user to use their body and guide the sword. When using the sword as a weapon, one must attain a state of oneness with the sword, one with the Qi, and one with the Spirit!

Looking at the elementary content which could be recited by any Martial Warrior, Qing Shui could not help but ask: "So how many of the millions of sword users can actually attain this state of oneness mentioned?" After all ,the more simple a thing was, the more profound the knowledge hidden within it would be. All the basics were derived from the learnings of millions of sword users, condensed down into their most basic form!

The way of Sword emphasizes "Speed, Accuracy, Decisiveness" Using these three words as the mantra to complement each of the basic sword attacking positions when practiced to the pinnacle, could kill with 1 hit, destroying your enemies with only a single strike!

The way of Sword also further emphasizes on hand-eye coordination, posture, footwork and form.

When the user of the sword art has cultivated it to its peak, any

part of the sword can be used as a weapon! After attaining the stage of man and sword as one, amalgamating with the sword, and the next stage of heaven and man as one. The user himself, without his sword, can be considered as an unsheathed sharp sword!

AST: Chapter 33 – It Takes 10 Years to Forge a Good Sword

Qing Shui's imagination wildly soared as he continued reading. He was daydreaming about when would he be able to step into the fabled realm of Man and Sword as One, and Heaven and Man as One. After which, he shook his head: "A journey of a thousand miles, begins with a single step. I should stop dreaming and start with the basics. After all, even accounting for the experiences of my past life, I do not have any experience in the way of the sword. I merely dabbled in exercises like practicing the Tai-Chi Fist and the Tai-Chi swordplay. Those were just empty stances full of air with no real substance behind them.

As he read on, other than the main basic methods of attack positions, which consisted of: Hooking, Hanging, Pointing, Carrying, Piercing, Slicing and Hacking, the book also, in great detail, explained the amount of strength which had to be exerted for each strike, the position of the sword, the posture of the body as well as breathing methods that could be utilized. Other than the descriptions, there were also pictures depicting a human wielding a sword in the various forms of sword attacks.

The more Qing Shui read, the more he was confused. "How could the techniques the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> be so complex? If this is the case, what about the profound sword arts? How could I even begin to train in them if I don't even understand the basic techniques?" Qing Shui was lost in contemplation.

Everytime Qing Shui saw a picture, he would match it with the details stated in the description and practice them. Using his

fingers in place of a sword, he held the book in one hand and practiced the basic forms of attacks: Hooking, Hanging, Pointing, Carrying, Piercing, Slicing and Hacking with the other one. One stroke after another, relentlessly pursuing perfection.

Qing Shui carried on his practice as time inexorably passed on. He did not know the exact amount of time that passed as there was no day and night cycle within the spatial realm. Qing Shui, akin to a madman, practiced almost to the boundary of Qi Deviation, continuing on his journey to comprehend the truth behind the way of the sword.

“Going all out is the only way for me to improve, even if I have to step close to the boundary of Qi Deviation, I have to succeed!” Qing Shui said with determination blazing in his eyes.

Qing Shui did not lack perseverance or determination. He understood well that he was akin to metal. Metal needs to suffer blows from the smith’s hammer and be refined in fire before it can be forged into a good sword. In addition to that, the Yin-Yang Symbol in his sea of consciousness, was also enhancing his spirit and mind, granting him a high level of comprehension. That, when coupled with his unyielding personality as well as the aiding effects of his spatial realm meant that nothing would be impossible for him!

When comparing <<Basic Sword Techniques>> to the 3 other thick medical books, it could be considered rather thin. In addition, the contents of the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> book explained the most basic of all sword stances. Compared to the complex <<Herbal Combination Formula>> and the <<Continental

Medical Annal>>, it was infinitely easier to remember.

On the last page of the book it was written that the essence of the sword could be summarized into four insights, in a single sentence of four realms in swordplay. [Application of Knowledge], [Profoundness within Simplicity], [Swiftness equates Invincibility], [Back to Nature]!”

Qing Shui understood all of them, except for the last part, [Back to Nature]. He only seemed to have a rudimentary grasp on the meaning it contained, but nothing concrete.

For the first realm, [Application of Knowledge], essence of this insight referred to knowing when was the right circumstance, when was the right place, and when was the right time to execute which of the basic attacking sword forms. Simply put, to execute the correct moves at the correct time.

For the second realm, [Profoundness within Simplicity]”, essence of this insight referred to not pursuing perfection of form. Form is secondary and intent is primary. Swordplay that looks beautiful and dazzling looks good, but is nothing in comparison to true power. In fact, the more profound the sword art is, the more ordinary it would look when executing the techniques within. Upon stepping into this realm, the techniques executed those who understand the dao of the sword might even looked clumsy and sloppy.

For the third realm, [Swiftness equates Invincibility], the essence of this insight referred to, under the vast domain of heavens, the same philosophy holds true for all martial arts. As long as one

achieve sufficient speed, he would be able to defeat anything in the world. With sufficient speed, one might indeed achieve the realm of invincibility. What a pity that this was just a theory. After all, who would dare to say that they are the swiftest in the world?

For the last realm, [Back to Nature], he only had a rough understanding of the insights behind it. Qing Shui could not comprehend which level this realm of swordplay belonged to. “Could it be the legendary realm..? After one had mastered the sword, one could infuse sword intent into everything in nature. At that realm, everything in nature could be used as a sword!

Sword intent! Qing Shui got lost in contemplation as his thoughts drifted far away.

After he finished the book, Qing Shui closed his eyes and started meditating. He wanted to organize his thoughts and to his heart to comprehend the various details outlined in the book.

After a long time, Qing Shui finally opened his eyes. This was indeed the basics of sword arts! No matter how profound a sword technique was and no matter which realm a sword user had attained, traces of the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> would still exist within them!

“If that is the case, when <<Basic Sword Techniques>> is cultivated to its pinnacle, could it also possess the might of profound sword techniques?” Qing Shui was lost in contemplation.

The carcass of the giant condor and the dried rations, had long

since been finished off by Qing Shui, therefore he had no choice but to hunt. As he exited the spatial realm, dawn was already breaking. Although Qing Shui could spend approximately 15 days in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal per real day, every day he chose to split the maximum of 15 days into 3 smaller segments. When he would enter on the 3rd segment, he would stay within the spatial realm until it forcibly extricated him after he passed the time limit.

A period of one month passed, Qing Shui had learnt plenty of things in the last month. He was also out in nature where he could contemplate on the significance of the 5 elements, as well as try to gain insights into the heart of the heavens.

The state of a person's heart was very important. For people with a large frame of heart, they would naturally be able to contain more things. People with a narrow frame of heart, could be compared to a frog living in a well, forever unable to imagine or appreciate the beauty of the vast outside world!

A wild boar was hunted by Qing Shui. After which, he removed the bristles, cut open its stomach, removed the intestines, blood, internal organs, then he scraped the carcass clean, even the head of the boar was not spared.

“What a waste, how inconsiderate!” Qing Shui laughed self-deprecatingly.

Luckily, this wild boar could be considered muscular and fit, there was no excess fat in its body. During this period of time, the thing that Qing Shui ate most were the wild boars. Especially the

pig trotters... Yummy, they were to die for. To satisfy his palate, Qing Shui hunted many wild boars and experimented on them to practice his cooking skills.

Currently, Qing Shui felt that his cooking skills could still be considered slightly above average. After all, he felt that the food he cooked had a superior taste when compared to other fine inns or restaurants.

After finishing his dinner, Qing Shui stored the three remaining trotters inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He then walked to the side of the cooking fire and picked up a wooden staff measuring 3 foot 3 inches long from the ground.

Entering the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal again, Qing Shui had long since mastered the basic sword forms of: Hooking, Hanging, Pointing, Carrying, Piercing, Slicing and Hacking. Now, he wielded the wooden staff, as he would have wielded a sword, the staff almost appeared to be alive in his hand, vigorously performing each of basic sword forms to perfection. After all, both of his arms had already been trained to an extremely agile state, including his palm, his wrist, his fingers, and every other part of his hands due to practicing the Solitary Rapid Fist, as such they had long since reached the peak of agility.

All thanks to the bout of enlightenment from before, it was as if all the insights gained during practicing the Solitary Rapid Fist had been absorbed by his pair of hands. So when he practiced his sword techniques, Qing Shui could achieve double the results with only half the effort, advancing at a tremendous pace.

As the saying went, “It takes 10 years to master the saber, and a 100 years to master the sword!”

Sword Arts were immeasurably deep and profound, Qing Shui knew deep in his heart that if he wanted to master the path of the sword, he would definitely need to expend tremendous amounts of efforts and time. In any case, Qing Shui was not worried. After all, he was the sovereign of the Realm of the Violet Jade immortal.

The sword follows the body, the body leads the sword, a sword user must be able to attain the state of sword and body as one, body and Qi as one, Qi and Spirit as one. Although Qing Shui was only in the beginning realm of sword users, he could still roughly understand some of the laws of the profoundness of the sword arts!

What Qing Shui understood was, using Qi to control one’s sword, the breath and execution of the sword techniques must complement each other in addition to one’s form and footwork. However, regarding Qi and Spirit as one, Qing Shui had not the slightest clue about it.

However, he did not need to fully comprehend this now. What Qing Shui needed to currently attain, were the three mantras associated with sword arts! Swift, Accurate, Decisive. Especially for the first mantra, Swift!

Currently, Qing Shui, with the strength of one, could already defeat 10. Now, if he managed to successfully comprehend the meaning of swift, he would be akin to a tiger that had grown wings!

Swift! Qing Shui, in order to comprehend the meaning of swiftness, unceasingly tried out different forms of sword attacks, altering their angles.

Just like this, Qing Shui decided to practice the most elementary form of all sword movements. Drawing his sword from the scabbard, Returning his sword back to the scabbard, Iaido. What Qing Shui currently wanted to master, was the Iaido [1] technique.

This was because Iaido only placed emphasis on Swiftness. Once the sword is drawn, one must kill. Swift to the point of dazzling your opponents, leaving the opponent with no chance to defend!

AST: Chapter 34 – Iaido

Qing Shui assiduously started his practice to master the way of Iaido, he stood there as images of sword shadows flashed through his mind as he visualized the most simplistic of all sword movements.

After he became exhausted, Qing Shui would take a break and drink water from the pond, eat the wild beasts that he had hunted and even read his books. There were a few times whereby Qing Shui was tempted to pluck the Energy Enhancing Fruit and eat them, but whenever he saw the glistening red color of the fruit, he would unconsciously reject the notion. This unconscious rejection was not born out of the fear that the fruit would be poisonous, however the actual reason was unknown to Qing Shui.

“Why the rush? There is always time, let’s wait for a while longer before I consume the Energy Enhancing Fruits.” Qing Shui decided to temporarily shelve the idea as he started reading the <<Continental Medical Annal>>, <<10,000 Herbal Encyclopedia>> and <<Herbal Combination Formula>> again. This was already the second time he read them, not to mention the fact that he had already memorized all of the contents in all three books! However, despite that, Qing Shui knew that he should only stop reading them when he had reached the point of forming an opinion regarding the theories behind the contents! It was only when he reached the point of forming his own opinions that he would be able to review the old and gain new knowledge. Only then would he be qualified to be a teacher!

Of course, he did not neglect the <<Basic Swords Techniques>>, in fact, practicing his sword techniques became the main point of

Qing Shui's focus during this period of time. If people from the World of the Nine Continents knew that Qing Shui was so obsessed and expended such a huge amount of time and efforts in mastering the sort of simplistic movement of drawing the sword and returning it back to the scabbard, they would undoubtedly call him a foolish madman.

Qing Shui relentlessly practiced his Iaido Technique, he must have already reached the point of executing it hundreds of thousands to millions of times. Practice makes perfect, Qing Shui firmly believed that as long as he practiced this set of simplistic sword movements for a few hundred million times, he would definitely turn this ordinary looking technique into something miraculous!

What Qing Shui wanted, was exactly the effect of turning something ordinary looking into something miraculous! Because <<Basic Sword Techniques>>, formed the foundation of all sword users, as long as one assiduously practiced the basics to the pinnacle, the foundation they built would be tough and solid. This would enable them to reach greater and greater heights in the way of the sword in the future!

Another month passed, inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal Qing Shui had already been practicing the Iaido technique for 3 years... It could be said that in the whole wide world, only Qing Shui had this way of thinking. Only with sufficient determination would one be willing to expend this much time and effort on something like this.

Time after time he practiced the particular movement set of

drawing and returning. Qing Shui had no idea how many wooden staves he had damaged over time. In the beginning, the wooden staves he used were only as thin as the width of a thumb. However, as he progressively improved, the wooden staff he used began to get thicker and thicker and now, it was the size of a wrist!

Everytime, he practiced the Iaido Technique, the amount of friction generated from the force of the movement would be too tough for a normal wooden staff to handle. Qing Shui had to forage for a long time before he found the rare Scryrius Ironwood and fashioned it into a sword. The Scryrius Ironwood was famed for its toughness. Back when he was in the Qing Clan, he remembered seeing furniture made from this type of wood, which was why he recognized this material when he saw it.

What Qing Shui didn't know however, was that other than furniture, there were also plenty of other weapons out there which were created from Scryrius Ironwood.

After finding it, Qing Shui decided to practice against something instead of just solo practice the simplistic set of movements. He stood atop the peak of a high mountain, surveying all four directions, trying to find a good location for his sword practice. Now, it was already August. The climate had turned chilly, but despite only wearing a thin layer of clothes Qing Shui did not fear the cold at all. His constitution had improved to such an extent that, even if he was half naked, the chill would not bother him.

Qing Shui unconcernedly and casually strutted down the mountain, trying to look for a suitable place. He passed by a hillside where there stood a gigantic tree, so large that it would

require numerous people to join hands before they could hug it. A gentle breeze blew over, making the yellowed and reddish leaves begin to flutter in the air, falling from the tree branches and landing all over the ground.

Instinctively, Qing Shui executed his Iaido technique and pierced a leaf with the wooden sword he had fashioned out of Scryrius Ironwood. Following this, he continued piercing leaves. A second leaf, a third leaf..... but ultimately, there were still plenty of leaves that fell to the ground.

Qing Shui's current weapon was a wooden sword fashioned from Scryrius Ironwood, it looked simple and crude, but one could not question its toughness. Before this, he had been using staves to practice the sword techniques... However, in the end, a staff is still a staff and is unable to bring out the essence behind the sword arts. So Qing Shui, using his tyrannical strength, had fashioned the staves into the shape of a sword!

Qing Shui momentarily paused and extended his left fist, sending out a punch against the trunk of the gigantic tree. After which, the impact caused numerous leaves to flutter down from the skies as he brandished the wooden sword and charged towards them.

In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, other than practicing his sword techniques, he had also been training his Ghostly Steps. Now, using the unfathomable mysterious Ghostly Steps technique in his footwork, Qing Shui was like a fish in water, fluidly moving amongst the leaves as he stabbed towards them from different angles.

Despite only using a technique that seemed deceptively simple,, it was actually filled with profoundness. No matter the angle or direction, Qing Shui could unleash a torrent of sword stabs that were unparalleled in speed!

Qing Shui spent all of his time punching the gigantic tree and then attack the falling leaves, only after the poor tree was entirely devoid of leaves did he move on in search of other gigantic trees.

In the middle of his search, he came across a large bird that tried to ambush him. Of course, this bird was not as gigantic nor as ferocious as the previous White-headed Inky Jade Condor. Upon discovering the ambush attempt, just using a single strike, Qing Shui executed his Iaido Technique and pierced through the head of the large bird. Despite the grievous injury, the large bird still managed to fly away. It was because his current sword was fashioned out of a staff. The length of it left much to be desired, and it was unable to pierce all the way through to the brain of that huge bird.

Qing Shui sighed, the length of this sword was too short, if he had a larger and longer sword, he was absolutely certain that he would have been able to kill that bird earlier. His current sword could be considered akin to that of a mosquito bite. No matter how fiercely a mosquito bites, it is still unable to kill a person!

Especially when it comes to beasts with huge stature, it would be exceedingly tough for Qing Shui to kill them with a single strike to the head with his current sword. Conversely, if the opponent he faced was a human, he was certain that he would have no troubles at all.

As time passed and all the trees in the vicinity were stripped naked due to Qing Shui. Qing Shui knew that it was finally time for him to return back to the Qing Clan.

Qing Shui had left home for almost half a year! It was going to be November soon. For this past half year, all the leaves in the vicinity had served as target practice for Qing Shui sword technique.

“One more month should be sufficient for me to rush back to the Qing Village,” Qing Shui exclaimed.

This decision to depart the Qing Village was a right one, doing so had gained Qing Shui tons of benefits. The greatest benefit Qing Shui received was not from the mastery of his Iaido Technique but the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal! After months of arduous practice, Qing Shui had already reached a frightening level with regards to his way of the sword. Amongst the thousands of fallen leaves, if one looked closely, one would find an opening created by a sword stab in the center of every leaf. Other than that, if Qing Shui so wished, he could have bunched all the leaves together with his Iaido technique, letting none of them touch the ground. [1]

This was the realm that Qing Shui’s mastery of the sword had reached! The total amount of time he had spent on it could be considered close to 10 years! As the saying goes, ‘10 years to train a sword’, he took precisely 10 years to master this single technique, profoundness in simplicity!

Other than using 2 hours everyday to cultivate inside of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, the remainder of his time was used to travel. Looking at all the majestic mountains surrounding him, Qing Shui could not help but feel that humans were just too insignificant. Qing Shui sped in the direction of the Qing Village as he could not wait to get back home.

His Ancient Strengthening Technique, was still stuck at the 48th cycle, no matter what he did, he was unable to break through the bottleneck. Despite this failure, Qing Shui was immensely excited. He believed that as long as he could manage to reach the 49th cycle, then he would break into the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!

During the night, after ending his cultivation practice inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui helplessly sighed... That bottleneck was akin to a huge mountain blocking his path, no matter what he did he was unable to budge it the slightest... there was no hope of him breaking through!

At this moment, he inclined his head and looked up at the 10 blood-red, glistening fruits that hung on the Energy Enhancing Tree.

“Maybe it’s time for me to consume the Energy Enhancing Fruits?”

AST: Chapter 35 – Consumption of the Energy Enhancing Fruits

Qing Shui glanced at the 10 glistening, blood-red Energy Enhancing Fruits, the thought of eating them and gaining 500 jin of strength directly was extremely appealing to him. It's a pity that there was the limitation that a human could only consume two Energy Enhancing fruits in their lifetime, because of that, eating more would be pointless. If there was no limit to the stacking effect, he would definitely abuse this to the maximum, and gain an additional 5000 jin of strength every year.

The current Qing Shui, who already possessed a strength level of 15,000 jin, was not overly enamored by the effects granted by Energy Enhancing Fruits. It was only an increment of 500 jin was it not? Not enough to get flustered over. However, as the saying goes, even though the amount of meat a mosquito has is small, it is still meat. [1] Not to mention, he was still sorely unable to break through the bottleneck of the 3rd heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Although the probability was miniscule, there was still the possibility that consuming the Energy Enhancing Fruits would allow him to break through.

After thinking it through, Qing Shui went in front of the sturdy and vigorous looking Energy Enhancing Tree and sized up the 10 glistening, blood-red Energy Enhancing Fruits. He allowed their savory smell to waft over him before he extended one of his hands and plucked one of the Energy Enhancing Fruit off the branch of the tree.

“Ai! This cannot be possible right? I cannot pluck it off?” Qing

Shui estimated that earlier, when he attempted to pluck the fruit off, he had only used a few dozen jin worth of strength, but unexpectedly, he was unable to pluck the fruit off the branch! Not only that, the sturdy Energy Enhancing Tree did not even budge an inch when Qing Shui exerted his strength!

Excellent! Excellent! Qing Shui exclaimed in wonder, after which he exerted even more strength, but he still failed to pluck the fruit from the tree. This time around, Qing Shui had used a few hundred jin worth of strength!

“Fuck!” Getting impatient, Qing Shui directly used an even greater amount of strength and finally succeeded in plucking the Energy Enhancing Fruit. Thinking back, during the moment he succeeded, the strength level he exerted should have been around 500 jin worth of strength!

Qing Shui was absorbed in his thoughts, eating an Energy Enhancing Fruit that gave an increment of 500 jin worth of strength actually required the strength level of 500 jin to pluck the fruit off the branch. This was the first time he had come across such a bizarre thing. However, he was not that surprised by it, as there were even more bizarre things in the World of the Nine Continents. After all, wasn't the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal even more bizarre? Shrugging it off, Qing Shui unconcernedly shook his head. Ever since the day when the Ancient Strengthening Technique appeared in his mind, his ability to comprehend bizarre stuff exceeded that of normal humans!

This fruit, could never have be plucked by an ordinary human....

The size of the Energy Enhancing Fruit was just about the size of Qing Shui's palm, it was emanating slight waves of heat when held. If the Energy Enhancing Fruit was held more tightly, one could feel a scorching heat emanate from it. Looking at the glistening fruit, Qing Shui experimentally took a bite out of it.

En, the texture was a bit tough and a bit crispy, but an extremely savory taste spread out in his mouth, giving rise to an alluring scent! Very quickly, the entire Energy Enhancing Fruit was devoured by Qing Shui! The most surprising thing was that the Energy Enhancing Fruit actually had no seed! After it was eaten, the fruit released waves of fiery Qi that arose from his Dantian, circulated through all of his energy channels and meridians, infusing his body with boundless strength!

Qing Shui activated the Ancient Strengthening Technique as his whole body slowly took on a reddish hue. When compared to his regular attempts at activating the Ancient Strengthening Technique, there was currently a lax but extremely comfortable feeling as he circulated the 48th cycle of Qi. At this moment, Qing Shui finally opened his eyes, but instead of his usual confident expression, there were hints of confusions to be seen in his eyes!

Although he did not manage to break through the bottleneck, Qing Shui was not confused about that. Instead, he was extremely puzzled as to why consuming the Energy Enhancing Fruit actually increased his strength by 2000 jin instead of the 500 jin mentioned! In addition, other than increasing his strength level, the Energy Enhancing Fruit also tempered the tendons and bones of the user! Not only that, there was even the slight effect of impurities cleansing! Too bad that Qing Shui had already undergone two rounds of impurities cleansing. Because of that, this particular

effect of consuming the Energy Enhancing Fruit was not displayed. Still, he could not help but be awestruck... This type of fruit, in the hands of a normal human would certainly be considered a great heavenly sent opportunity!

“I thought the description stated that a fruit would only increase one’s strength by 500 jin?” Qing Shui scratched his head and had no conclusions despite pondering over it for half a day. In any case, it was not disadvantageous for him, after all, a greater increase was always better than a smaller increase right?

Since there was the limit of two fruits, Qing Shui wasted no time and directly consumed the second Energy Enhancing Fruit. This time around, he did not pause to savor the taste and directly swallowed it. After eating, he could not help but curse “F***!” He only gained an increase of 500 jin of strength!

Reasons flashed through his mind as Qing Shui attempted to make sense of the situation. Could it be, that one could gain greater increase in strength from their first consumption of the fruit? Or was it because his body was special? Maybe it was because he was the current sovereign of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.....

After ingesting both of the Energy Enhancing Fruits, Qing Shui gained an increase of about 2,500 jin of strength. This increase in strength could not be looked down upon as it was an approximate increase of 20% of his original strength level. After all, the Ancient Strengthening Technique was a heaven defying technique which focused on tempering the body of the cultivator. It’s main focus was on bodily strength and defense; overall it was a technique to strengthen one’s entire body!

Looking atop the tree branches, there were still eight more glistening blood-red Energy Enhancing Fruits. Qing Shui plucked them off and bundled them up in a cloth, preparing to gift two of the fruits to Qing Yi and two to Qing Luo when he returned to the Qing Village. Qing Shui had not yet decided how to distribute of the rest of the fruits. In any case, after a year, 100 years would have passed in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and he would have 10 more Energy Enhancing Fruits!

During this period of time, Qing Shui also discovered that the crystal clear water inside the pond of the spatial realm would automatically refill itself to it's original level after every reset. Qing Shui was ecstatic on this discovery as he knew that this water was not ordinary water, it had mystical properties! After that he took a look at the purplish soil underneath his feet and pondered: "Should I plant something here? If I don't, it would be a waste of fertile land, but what should I plant? Ahh, I know, herbs with medicinal properties!"

After this period of time, Qing Shui was already extremely knowledgeable about Herbal Medicine and Dan Medicine. That was why he wanted to plant crops of medicinal herbs inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The best thing that could happen was that he managed to plant the valuable and expensive herbs. However, currently, Qing Shui did not even have the seedlings for the cheapest and most common herbs, which was why the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal was still bare.

Holding the thick and heavy wooden sword in his hand, in an moment of impulse, he decided to carve three words onto the crude looking body of the wooden sword.

Even when rushing on the road, trying to return to the Qing Clan as fast as possible, Qing Shui would still hold the wooden sword in his hand, inadvertently practicing his Iaido Technique. There was a saying that a sword user must reach the state of where the sword never left one's hand. Qing Shui was trying to get a feel of that stage.

“I will soon reach home, the year is almost ending, not to forget about my celebration of coming-of-age. Also, after this year I will be considered an adult, able to marry beautiful wives and father many children, as well as struggle for survival in the World of the Nine Continents on my own.”

The Qing Clan could also be considered a Cultivator Clan, which was why people from the Qing Clan tended to marry later. For example, eldest grandson Qing Zi had not married yet. This was because, after getting married, it would be bad if they started to enjoy married life too much and indulged in the pleasure of lovemaking to the point of neglecting their cultivation.

So typically, it was those who had low talent in cultivation that could be allowed to marry a wife early and give birth to children. After they started their own family they would then help the Qing Clan handle their various businesses!

In the eyes of the Qing Clan, Qing Shui was placed in the classification of those that were allowed to start their own family. After all, in the eyes of his clan members, he was nothing but trash. There would not be much progress even if he chose to continue on the path of cultivation.

Qing Shui thought about the World of the Nine Continents, especially the region where the Qing Clan was currently residing. Most families would allow their children to marry around the ages of 16-18 and would be considered an elder after they reached the age of 20!

Regarding this type of early age marriage, Qing Shui was unsure of his own feelings towards it. He knew that in his previous world, marriage was only legal when the male was 22 years old and the female was 20. However, if he took into account his real age, then Qing Shui was already 30+ this year. He had hoped that he would be able find a ravishing beauty to be his permanent bed warmer too.

The moment he thought of women, his thoughts would drift to Shi Qing Zhuang, he could only helplessly sigh because Shi Qing Zhuang was the most beautiful woman he had seen who was unrelated to him, but she was already the fiancée of that arrogant jackass, Situ Bu Fan. Regarding those jade-like beauties from the nearby regions, they were either already betrothed to someone or they were underaged lolis!

Qing Shui, for the nearby regions at least, he did not want to bed other people's wives. He also had no interests in lolis. The only type of women that could catch his interest were those that were older than him. Shi Qing Zhuang fits this bill perfectly.....

AST: Chapter 36 – Return to the Qing Clan

As the year drew to a close, Qing Shui, carrying his backpack, finally arrived at the summit of the western mountains near the Qing Clan. The skies had already faded to a reddish yellow as dusk approached. As Qing Shui gazed into the far-off direction, at the entrance of the Qing Mansion, he saw an unforgettable silhouette. That graceful bearing and that charming appearance, it was as if it had been engraved onto his heart, unforgettable for all eternity.

What Qing Shui saw was the silhouette of Qing Yi. At the instant he saw her, an indescribable feeling of warmth materialized in his heart. Unknowingly, his pace got quicker and quicker and reached a terrifying speed as he sped over to Qing Yi.

“Mother!” Tears involuntarily dripped down his face as Qing Shui felt very blessed at this moment. Thinking back on his experiences for the half past year as well as the time when he almost died, but still, he eventually survived and finally returned home to see his mother.

Hearing the familiar voice, Qing Yi felt a shudder in her heart. Looking ahead, she saw Qing Shui lunging forward and she tightly embraced him.

“Ah, my child, why are you crying? Let mother take a good look at you, hmm your hair has grown longer, you have matured, and you have even grown taller!” Qing Yi gently patted Qing Shui’s forehead as she started to tidy his unkempt hair.

“Ai, what happened Shui`er? Why is there suddenly a violet dot on your forehead? Strangely enough, it looks really good on you.” Qing Yi asked while she curiously touched that speck of violet-colored pearl in the middle of Qing Shui’s brow

“Eh, n.. nothing, I do not know what happened either, maybe an unknown bug bit me. After all, I have been travelling for half a year!” Qing Shui hurriedly found an excuse to starve off Qing Yi’s question. Luckily for him, in the past 2 months, the once shiny, violet-colored speck of jade pearl had dimmed a little and was no longer as eye-catching!

“Mother dearest, why are you here, do you not need to visit Hundred Miles City before the new year?”

“Haha, who would have thought that there would be such a coincidence, I came out today in the hopes of seeing Shui`er, and Shui`er really did appear! Since Shui`er is here, this year, I will not return to Hundred Miles City.” Qing Yi cheekily pinched the cheeks of Qing Shui as she smiled, happiness apparent in her eyes.

Qing Shui felt extremely emotional in his heart, he didn’t know for how long Qing Yi had stood there, waiting for him to come back, but he knew that this was certainly not the first day Qing Yi waited for him outside of the entrance to the Qing Mansion.

“Mother, Shui`er has matured, in the future let me share your worries and burdens for you, alright? Do not worry and just let me handle it.” Qing Shui glanced at Qing Yi, gratitude almost overwhelming him to the point that he did not know what to say. Despite this, he knew that because of the love they shared, there

was no need for him to actually say anything.

“Let us go home, it is going to be a new year in a few days. Mother shall personally tailor a new clothes for you to try on.” Qing Yi said as they both walked in the direction of the Qing Mansion.

Looking at the Qing Clan, Qing Shui did not feel like anything had changed, now that the year was coming to an end, he could sense the festive atmosphere everywhere. For instance, at the entrance of Qing Clan, and other families nearby, there were big red lanterns as well as some colored satin sashes hanging atop the entrances, fluttering in the wind. Looking around, he saw the kids of the various families running about as they played in the streets, while the older generations of the families would be shopping for new year goods in the bustling marketplace.

Another year was arriving!

After walking into the Qing Mansion, the only thing that made Qing Shui puzzled was that the normally cold family members actually took their own initiative to warmly greet him as he walked past. As such, Qing Shui too smiled back in response.

“Qing Shui, you are back! Did you just returned?” Qing Hai, looking as if he was about to go out, after seeing Qing Shui and Qing Yi, stopped and warmly welcomed him back even without giving Qing Shui the chance to speak.

“It is good that you are back, your mother had been standing at

the entrance for every day, from dawn to dusk, for almost a month! Now that you are back, you must properly take care of your mother!” Qing Hai quickly left after speaking, as he did not want to meet Qing Yi’s fiery gaze.

“Mo... mother...” Qing Shui stuttered for a moment before his voice gave up.

Qing Shui knew that he was very important in Qing Yi’s heart, although previously she had agreed to let Qing Shui leave the Qing Village, he knew that she had done so very reluctantly. Despite the worries in her mind and the fear in her heart, she did not say a single word. She had always been alone, suffering in silence.

After awhile, they arrived at the courtyard which belonged to the both of them. After entering the room, Qing Shui took off his backpack and thought of the eight Energy Enhancing Fruits in it.

“Mother, somehow, I fortuitously came across these fantastic fruits during my travels.” As he was talking, Qing Shui opened his backpack and took out the glistening blood-red Energy Enhancing Fruits.

“Hundred-Year Fiery Power Fruit!” Qing Yi exclaimed, shocked to her core!

Qing Shui himself was startled too. To think that the Energy Enhancing Fruits from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal could actually be identified in the outside world as well. Well, might as well, this saves him the trouble of explaining.

“Mother, you can identify this fruit!?”Qing Shui asked, dumbstruck.

“This is the Hundred-Year Fiery Power Fruit, it only grows in the vicinity of thousand-year old volcanoes, it takes a hundred years for them to mature, and once matured, every fruit will increase a human’s strength by 500 jin after consumption. And that is not all,, it can also improve one’s constitution! Furthermore, this fruit only grows under exceptional circumstances as the requirements are exceedingly harsh to meet, so this fruit could be said to be incomparably valuable. If one use this fruit as a ingredient for pill concoction, the grade of the end product concocted will at least be of the Precious Grade!” Qing Yi explained.

Regarding the effects, Qing Shui already knew all of it, it was just the fruit’s name that was different. Qing Shui could only sigh in his heart, when he learned that the fruit was named as Energy Enhancing Fruit, he already felt that it sounded stupid, who could have imagined that this new name, the “Hundred-Year Fiery Power Fruit” would sound even more retarded!

“What a pity!”

“What is a pity?” Qing Shui looked at Qing Yi who was staring at the fruits with emotions akin to regret.

“What a pity that each individual can only consume two of these fruits in a lifetime. If not, then these eight fruits could have enabled your strength to increase tremendously.”

“Mother, I thought that these fruits were just ordinary run-of-the-mill fruits so I have already eaten two of them. After which, I could feel that my strength increased a lot and thus, decided to bring these fruits back! Mother, since these fruits can increase strength level as well as improve constitution, hurry up and eat two!”

Qing Yi initially did not eat the fruits because she wanted to save them for Qing Shui. After ascertaining that Qing Shui had already eaten two of the fruits, she no longer hesitated.

“Hurry up and eat two of these fruits, Mother! Who knows, there may be unexpected surprises. You do not have to worry about the fruits running out, I know where the growing place for the fruits is, and it is in a very well hidden place. I can guarantee that no one can find it but me!” Qing Shui lies became more and more far-fetched.

A lie leading to another lie, eventually ending up with a whole web of lies!

Giving in to Qing Shui’s urgings, Qing Yi consumed two of the Energy Enhancing Fruits and gained an increase of 1000 jin of strength! This made Qing Shui scratch his head in bewilderment, he still had no clue as to why the effects differed for him when he consumed his first fruit inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

After that, Qing Yi kept the remaining Energy Enhancing Fruits

as she took out a few sets of satin clothings. The materials all came from Hundred Miles City, but from the intricate weavings on the set of clothings, Qing Shui could tell that each of these sets of clothes had been personally tailored by Qing Yi for himself.

From back when he was young till now, all of Qing Shui's clothes had been handmade by Qing Yi.

“Come and try to see if it fits!” Qing Yi happily called out.

Qing Yi help Qing Shui put on a purple satin robe, and it fit him to a T. No one knew better than Qing Yi, not even Qing Shui himself, about the sizes of the clothes and shoes that he wore.

My son looks so much like a charming prince!” Qing Yi said as she admired Qing Shui in his new clothes, laughingly. The smile on her face made Qing Yi look incomparably pure, as if she was radiating sunlight. At this moment, Qing Shui felt extremely blessed in his heart to have a mother like Qing Yi.

Motherly Love was boundless!

AST: Chapter 37 – Night Market at the Town of the Setting Phoenix

After donning the satin robe embroidered with intricate designs, Qing Shui stood in front of the mirror, admiring his reflection and his elegant features. In addition to the barely perceptible speck of violet pearl, he also gave off an unsurpassed air of grace and elegance, but not to the point where people would mistake him for a female. However, his current looks could definitely match up to the definition of the word, “beautiful”.

Qing Shui did not know how other guys would feel if they were called beautiful by others, but personally he would rather look like a beastman than have his current appearance.

Qing Shui bitterly stared at the beautiful clothes on his body. This clothing style was actually quite similar to what that Situ Bu Fan would wear. This could not be considered a new fad as the Qing Clan and the various families in the Qing Village would wear a similar style of clothings every new year. Even Qing Shui himself had worn this style of clothing before, but it had never this awkward. Maybe subconsciously, after meeting Situ Bu Fan, he had no desire to be similar to him in any way.

“If this was not personally tailored for me by mother, I would definitely not wear it!” Qing Shui inwardly grumbled.

As Qing Shui turned his head, and saw the look of happiness in Qing Yi’s eyes, he helplessly sighed. Who’s mother would not wish for their child to be good looking? Plus, how could such a beauty like Qing Yi give birth to an ugly child?

“Looking good, hehe. In the future, I do not know how many girls will fall for our Shui`er.” Qing Yi laughingly stated as she gently straightened Qing Shui’s collar, sleeves and clothes.

“Mother, let us go to the town! I have never been there before, and I remember Qing Hu saying that the town will be bustling and full of activities since it is a new year!”

Looking at Qing Yi, Qing Shui could not help but feel a trembling in his heart as he remembered Qing Hai’s words. He never expected that Qing Yi would actually stand outside the gates and waited for him to return safely, day after day.

“Okay!” Qing Yi agreed! With hints of guilt in her eyes, Qing Yi could not help but sigh. She had always been busy in Hundred Miles City, handling external businesses for the Qing Clan and had neglected Qing Shui in his early childhood years. Qing Yi could only spare time to come back and visit Qing Shui during certain times of the year. Luckily, this child of hers was independent by nature and understood the big picture.

The skies outside had not completely darkened, yet the trees on the streets all were adorned with “Light Stones”. The Light Stones were a kind of pebble, capable of emitting soft rays of light. There were many grades of Light Stones, it was said that the Light Stones used in Qing Village were of the lowest grades, so the light rays emitted from them were the weakest as well. There were rumors that some of the grand cities in the Green Cloud Continent had light stones of the highest grade, capable of emitting light rays that were comparable to the moonlight.

At this time of the night street lights were normally supposed to be on, however, because of the festive season, the street lights were not lit as the light stones took their place. Despite this, the effects of the Light Stones, in Qing Shui's opinion, was much better than the light lamps. Following Qing Yi, the two of them walked out of the Qing Clan and in the direction of the Town of the Setting Phoenix.

The Paulownia Town got its name from the towering Paulownia Tree planted in the town. Legend has it that during ancient times, a phoenix once resided on top of the Paulownia tree. Eventually, after it departed, the name of the town was changed to the Town of the Setting Phoenix! Even now, one was able to hear the fascinating stories from the Elders, with detailed explanations that were so vivid that it was as if the elders had seen the phoenix with their very own eyes.

Because both Hundred Miles City and Town of the Setting Phoenix were situated some distance away from the Qing Village, taking into consideration the routes to visit Hundred Miles City were all mountainous paths, many people found it very inconvenient to visit it. Hence, this led to most people choosing to visit the nearby prosperous Town of the Setting Phoenix instead, and as it was the only town in the vicinity!

So generally, people would visit Town of the Setting Phoenix for purchasing and selling items! One more main point to note was that even influential merchants from Hundred Miles City would come to Town of the Setting Phoenix to set up stores and conduct their businesses; selling and purchasing beast leather, meat, crops. Their main aim was to target cultivators who tended to go to the

1,000,000 Li mountains to cultivate. These cultivators would usually need supplies, and they would frequently stop at the Town of the Setting Phoenix to make their purchases, or sell the gains they had acquired.

The distance between Qing Village and Town of the Setting Phoenix was about a little over a thousand meters. Despite having the name of “Town of the Setting Phoenix”, in reality this town was also considered a part of Qing Village. This was because, in the radius of a 100 Li, all the surrounding region were called the Qing Village. This left Qing Shui feeling a bit awed, it was as if the Town of the Setting Phoenix was the capital of the Qing Clan.

The road was swamped with many people, as the Qing Clan held absolute authority in the region, many people took the initiative to courteously greet them as they passed.

The rowdy kids infected the bustling atmosphere with a sense of innocence as they ran about and played with each other. Looking at such a scene, anyone would smile in their heart.

“Shui`er, how did your training progress during this half year?” Qing Yi asked after looking at the current Qing Shui who was already taller than her by half a head.

“Not too bad!” Qing Shui said as he smiled, giving an answer that made Qing Yi feel very happy.

Since Qing Shui said not too bad, that means that it really was not too bad, Qing Yi knew that Qing Shui would never exaggerate

facts to boost his own power. She knew that Qing Shui was not as weak as he looked to be!

As mother and son chatted, unknowingly, they had already arrived at the entrance of the Town of the Setting phoenix. Qing Shui finally saw the legendary Paulownia Tree which gave the town its name. Speaking of which, even Qing Shui found it hard to believe. This was his first time here, in the last 10 years, he had never even stepped foot out of the Qing Mansion, even if he went out, he would only go to the mountains near the Qing Clan.

Qing Shui could not help but be thunderstruck by the size of the towering Paulownia tree. It was over 100m tall in height, and the girth of it requires over 10 humans before they could wrap their hands around the trunk. The many branches and leaves were akin to a gigantic umbrella, he mused to himself “Maybe, a phoenix really did once nest in this tree”.

The Town of the Setting Phoenix could not be considered small, in a radius of 10 Li, even now when the night was approaching many prongs of people still remained walking about the streets. Not to mention that this was a festive celebration as the new year was approaching. Everyone was on holiday just to celebrate this occasion, and as such, vendors on the streets were busy hawking their wares, shouting in loud voices as they attempted to attract more customers to their stores! This level of bustling could be compared to some of the cities back in Qing Shui’s previous life!

Qing Shui discovered that, after arriving in the town, he often saw a plethora of pretty girls; those with jade white skin, long and slender legs, and those with curvaceous figures. How could there

be any shortage of pretty girls with so many people on the streets! It was just that, all of these pretty girls were still some distance away when compared to Shi Qing Zhuang.

There were many pretty young ladies shyly glancing at Qing Shui, everytime Qing Yi noticed this, she would tease: “Shui`er, look, there are so many pretty young ladies that are stealing glances at you.”

Qing Shui felt very happy at this moment. He was not happy because there were plenty of beautiful girls for him to see, he was happy because he could tell that Qing Yi was no longer as depressed as before.

As they looked at the people in the streets; parents would accompany their children, teenage guys and girls were dating, the elderly grandparents were all supporting each other as they enjoyed the atmosphere...

Qing Shui unintentionally saw hints of helplessness and unwillingness flashing through Qing Yi eyes and he could roughly guess what Qing Yi was thinking about. However, to the current him, as long as he did not reach the Xiantian realm, there was nothing he could do about it...

“Mother, what are you thinking about? After tonight has passed, I can finally be considered as an adult. You previously promised me that after my coming of age ceremony, you would let me know about the circumstances of my father.” Qing Shui gently held Qing Yi’s hands as he asked. The instant Qing Shui mentioned his father, a frightening, razor sharp, ice cold look flashed in his eyes.

Upon seeing it, Qing Yi could not help but tremble as she felt the menacing aura emitted from Qing Shui.

“What mother has promised, I will naturally deliver. However, you must not go against my words!” Qing Yi let out a forced smile as she look at Qing Shui with hints of doting in her gaze.

“Do not worry mother. With me by your side, even if the heavens were to tumble down, I would still be here to support you!”

AST: Chapter 38 – Annual Competition

Amongst the Third Generations (1)

“Do not worry mother. With me by your side, even if the heavens were to tumble down, I would still be here to support you!”

Looking at Qing Shui, who was in high spirits, Qing Yi suddenly felt that Qing Shui had become so reliable. That lanky frame of his was suddenly so dependable, she thought as she felt a sweet warmth rise up in her heart. Her son had finally grown up!

Both mother and son slowly strolled the streets, enjoying the lively laughter of the crowd while watching the proceedings of the bustling streets unfold.

Standing at Qing Yi's side, Qing Shui enjoyed the peace of this moment. Even in the middle of these bustling street, as long as Qing Yi was with him, then even if the skies were to fall Qing Shui would still feel that he was safe. Safety wasn't from any protection that Qing Yi could afford him, but from the fact that someone in this world loved him. Drawing an analogy, back in his previous world, even in a prosperous, densely populated city, one would feel that the city was empty. This loneliness stems from the lack of kinship and love, which causes one to feel endless frustration in one's hearts.

It was getting late at night as Qing Shui and Qing Yi both returned to the Qing Clan. There were only two more days left until the new year, although Qing Shui was not clear on the customs of this world, the customs of the Qing Clan were fortunately similar to the ones back when he was on earth. Also, in

his previous life, Qing Shui also originated from a poor village and thus the things they did for celebrating the new year here were also similar. Pasting matching couplets, lighting up fireworks, offering incense as a token of respect for the previous generations etc.....

The second day, Qing Shui and Qing Yi did spring cleaning together, actually there wasn't that much to tidy up. Although there were servants, Qing Yi did not like it when other people entered her residence. The only exception to this was Qing Shui.

Yesterday night, despite the late hour after they returned, Qing Shui still used two hours of time and cultivated inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. There was no need to ask questions, with such a beneficial time dilation realm aiding him, how could he not grab every chance he could and abuse the shit out of it? No matter how busy he was, he would still make time for it.

Looking at the empty space, with that time dilation effect of 100:1, Qing Shui could not help but think to himself "Sigh, what a waste." What a waste it is to not grow spiritual herbs inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Initially, Qing Shui wanted to grow Precious Grade herbs inside the spatial realm, but how sad was it that the last stalk of the 1000-year Ginseng had already been bought by the Situ Clan. They had even made the trip personally. This goes to show just how valuable a Precious Grade herb was.

"Forget it, I will just wait until I get ahold of some in the future. After all, with 15 acres of earth, I can plant plenty of herbs here, and with the time dilation effect just cultivating the herbs here for a year would be equivalent to a hundred years hehehe." Qing Shui

was currently 15 years old, if he started planting herbs now, by the time he was 20, he would have plenty of 500 year old Common Grade spiritual herbs!

After thinking it through, Qing Shui was tremendously excited. If one decided on something, one should simply do it right away as there is no point in hesitating. After all, how could one simply just purchase Precious Grade herbs? Even if they ransacked the entire Hundred Miles City, there may not even be a single Precious Grade herb there. Since he had already decided to start on planting Common Grade herbs first, he still had to demarcate a boundary to ensure that there would still be space for planting Precious Grade herbs in the future.

“After the new year, I shall go and buy a few Common Grade herb seedlings, or forage for some in the wilds. After all, the current me could be considered to have some knowledge on the different types of spiritual herbs!” Qing Shui silently decided that he must do so right away, at the earliest opportunity!

“Ah Qing Shui, when did you return? I heard that for the past half year, you went out to practice your cultivation?”

At the sound of that voice, Qing Shui turned his head. This familiar voice belonged to Qing Yang. They had not met since their last meeting, back when Qing Shui first entered the Qing Clan’s practice yard, and all the way to when Qing Yang broke through to the 6th Grade of Martial Warrior. Qing Yang was unlike those youngsters of the other big clans in the Qing Village who looked down and sneered at Qing Shui back in the past.

The usage of the Qing Clan's practice courtyard was not limited to the 3rd generation of the Qing Clan alone. Other than the Qing Clan members, there were plenty of other 3rd generation members from the other big clans in the Qing Village. When comparing the ratio, there were many more members from the other clans when compared to just the Qing Clan. For example, the 3rd generation members from the Lan Clan were also using the courtyard. The Lan Clan members all had outstanding performance throughout these past two years, even more so than the Qing Clan members.

“Hey, it has been a while, it seems like your cultivation has improved again!” After a period of five years, Qing Shui could still discern Qing Hai's level of strength with a single glance. Currently, based on his observations, Qing Hai was at the peak of the 7th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm.

Qing Shui had a feeling that his younger cousin, the genius Qing You, had long surpassed the 7th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm. He only knew that the honest looking Qing Zi was still at the 8th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm.

“Interesting, seems like the competition this year will be more lively!” Qing Shui grinned. The end of year competition was not only limited to the Qing Clan, other clans could participate as well. However, the Qing Clan had a rule, disciples from the Qing Clan must be at least at the 6th Grade of Martial Warrior realm before they can enter the competition. Previously, a few years ago, a few youths from the other clans passed by Qing Village and arrived just in time for the yearly competition. Naturally, the hot-blooded youths, under the pretext of making friends through exchanging of pointers in martial arts, also entered the competition.

On the surface, although it was termed as a “competition”, in reality it was more of an exchange of pointers. The only other notable clans from the nearby regions were the Lan Clan from the Qing Village, as well as the Feng Clan and the Tong Clan from the Town of the Setting Phoenix.

“Brother Qing Yang, it seems like this year, you can finally unleash your prowess.” Qing Shui smiled.

Qing Yang bitterly smiled and said, “How could it be so easy, do you know not that Lan Ye from the Lan Clan, Feng Xishui from the Feng Clan and Tong Gang from the Tong clan have already broken through to the 9th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm.”

“What? the Martial Warrior 9th Grade? How is this possible? Elder Brother Qing Zi is only at the 8th Grade, does this means that no one from our Qing Clan are capable of fighting against them?” Qing Shui did not want to reveal his true strength yet. How weird, in these five years there was such a huge change, and to think that the other large clan’s 3rd generation members caught up with the strength level of the 3rd generation of Qing Clan. Looks like the decision that year, for the 2nd generation members to consume the Crippling Divine Pill, was also an action with no other recourse available to them.

“Luckily, we still have Qing You, the genius of our Qing Clan. He has already broken through to the peak level of the Martial Warrior realm and his strength should be sufficient to handle those 9th Grade Martial Warriors from the other clans, while leaving the other small fish and shrimps [1] for us.” Qing Yang was beaming when he spoke of Qing You. After all, only when the clans

had strong individuals would they be in a better position to fight for future benefits.

Any ne`er-do-well from clans or sects with a thousand years of history, could be a total wastrel or a useless bum and still be able to look down on others.

After that, Qing Shui went around meeting with other people from the Qing Clan, and also went to pay his respects to Qing Luo. Qing Luo had always doted and treasured him, despite his title of trash. It may be because Qing Luo only had one daughter and his fatherly love for Qing Yi was transferred onto him.

“Qing Shui, you have matured a lot during this half past year, though you must remember that one must not force oneself on the road of cultivation. If the way is full of obstacles, there is always some other paths available for you to take. You should not be overly focused and single-mindedly follow a presumed path that may not be suitable for you when you could soar to greater heights if you selected another path instead. Based on your intelligence, Grandpa shall not try to persuade you anymore. Your own destiny lies in your own hands.” Qing Luo said kindly as he looked at the soon to be adult Qing Shui.

“Do not worry Grandpa, I know my limits, I will be fine.” Qing Shui knew that there was no need to say that much now.

The second day after the beginning of the new year, the streets were still bustling as everyone soaked up the lively atmosphere. Qing Shui talked about many things with Qing Yi, as they strolled in the streets.

On the fourth day, Qing Luo brought the entire Qing Clan to pay respects to their ancestors.

Another year has passed, the previous year had been an extraordinary one for Qing Shui. He was 16 years old this year, and it was also time for the coming of age ceremony as well as the time for him to decide on which path he wanted to leave the imprint of his footsteps on in the future.

AST: Chapter 39 – Annual Competition Amongst the 3rd Generations (2)

In the blink of an eye, new year's eve had passed. The older one was, the faster time would pass, but for Qing Shui it was the same no matter how long. Although Qing Shui currently had the advantage of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, even before that he was already known for his perseverance and determination. Every day, at the scheduled time, whether rain or shine, he would always doggedly pursued his path of cultivation.

The more effort Qing Shui put into cultivation, the more it stood out that he was trash. The amount of effort he put into cultivating could be said to be rivaled by none, yet he was not able to break into the 6th layer of the Blue Lotus Art before the age of 16. What a pity... As a result, Qing Shui's destiny, the path he would walk, at least in the eyes of many, would not have much to do with cultivation.

Today was the 4th day in the new year, and tomorrow was the day for the yearly competition for the 3rd generation! Qing Shui had never once exhibited any interest in this, not even when he was younger. However, this year, he decided to take a look at how the others in his generation would fight.

Qing Shui walked out of his courtyard after he spending two hours, which was equivalent to half a month worth of time, cultivating within the spatial realm, but he was still unable to break through the major bottleneck! Qing Shui felt extremely incapable and powerless. That major bottleneck from the 3rd heavenly layer to the 4th could be said to be a stumbling block that

as huge as a towering mountain, obstinately blocking his path in cultivation.

Looking at the huge practice courtyard of the Qing Clan, one could sense that the boisterous atmosphere was even more lively when compared to before. The reason for this was because tomorrow would be the start of the yearly competition between the 3rd generation of each clan. There were many people, including the villagers from the nearby regions, who rushed to the courtyard today and at the same time, secretly probed the strength level of their competitors. This had already been the custom for many years.

Noon was approaching. However, in the dead of winter, despite the sun approaching its zenith, the heat released by its golden rays was not unbearable but almost pleasant instead. The rays of sunlight gave rise to feelings of laziness as one would rather lie down and enjoy the sunlight instead of getting busy elsewhere.

Qing Shui was dumbstruck for a moment after arriving at the Qing Clan's practice courtyard. A layer of vibrant red carpet was laid around the entire courtyard, invoking feelings of celebratory joy and passion as the vibrant color seemed to reflect all of the crowd's excitement.

“Qing Shui ge, I am over here!” Qing Shui turned his head and saw Qing Hu beckoning him over!

Qing Shui didn't have any interactions with Qing Hu for the past half year, he quickly discovered that this cousin of his had already reached the 6th Grade of the Martial Warrior realm! Although

Qing Hu had yet to reach the peak of the 6th Grade, Qing Shui still felt deeply moved in his heart. Qing Hu's talent could not be considered bad, he actually managed to improve so much in the short span of half a year!

Looking at Qing Hu's current level of cultivation, Qing Shui would obviously be happy for him! Initially, even if Qing Hu had failed to reach the 6th grade by the age of 16, Qing Shui would still exhaust all other possible means to aid Qing Hu from the shadows in order to increase his cultivation.

“Qing Hu, pretty impressive, but you must work harder in the future if you want to gain a foothold somewhere other than the Qing Village!”

“Haha,” Qing Hu laughed in agreement. Qing Hu was about the same height as Qing Shui, only his body was more muscular and well built than Qing Shui's.

Qing Shui knew that the motivation behind Qing Hu's rapid improvements was because of Lan Yan`Er. If not, how could the lazy Qing Hu have made such a huge improvement within such a short period of time!

As the saying went “The blushed face brings about waters of misfortune!”^[1] Or more simply, “femme fatale”, with mere words, a woman could motivate a man to improve himself, but on the other hand, the woman could also instantly cause the downfall of a man with a mere flick of her fingers.

For an instant, complicated thoughts could be seen swirling about in Qing Shui's eyes, but when Qing Hu looked in his direction, Qing Shui quickly reverted back to normal.

As they squeezed their way through the crowd, Qing Shui felt that there really were a lot of villagers in the courtyard today. Scanning through the faces of the crowd, he only vaguely recognized a few familiar faces, but most of them were unknown to him.

“Qing Shui ge, that guy is the famous Lan Ye from the Lan Clan!” As Qing Shui was scanning through the faces of the crowd, attempting to catch a glimpse of the few cultivators from the other clans who had broken through to the 9th Grade, Qing Hu interrupted him as he pointed to a certain direction.

In that far off direction stood a lanky youth about 20 years of age. He had an extremely lazy countenance, yet his gaze possessed a charm that cause people to look at him twice. His eyes were not filled with the radiance of glory, nor were they cold and brimming with killing intent. It was more of a look filled with unwavering determination.

“He is someone with a heart of steel and his accomplishments certainly aren't minor things such as simply breaking through to the 9th Grade of the Martial Warrior Realm.” This was what Qing Shui's intuition was telling him. He could tell the strength of Lan Ye with just a single glance.

Although Qing Shui did not know how strong he was currently, he knew for sure that he was stronger than all of these so called

geniuses, but by how much, he could not tell. All he knew was that his current strength was still quite a distance away from reaching the door of the Xiantian realm.

Standing at the side of Lan Ye, was a beautiful teenage girl. The eyes of that girl seemed to exude flashes of brilliance that were capable of enchanting all but the most strong-willed of men. Her fair skin looked even fairer when contrasted with her silky black hair, and those gigantic twin peaks, akin to mountains, in front of her chest were swaying as she walked. In addition to that she also had a willowy waist and long, slender legs, when this was matched with her snow white shoes, the whole image exuded from her was akin to that of a pure and holy saint.

“No wonder the young master of the Heavenly River Clan wants her to be his, so this is the reason why!” Qing Shui glanced at the beautiful girl beside Lan Ye, after turning his head back he found that Qing Hu had long since spotted Lan Yan`Er and was gazing at her intently with a lovelorn expression.

Maybe it was the intense gazes focused on her, but Lan Yan`Er turned her gaze towards the two of them as her beautiful eyes were filled with slight traces of loathing as well as some disdain. After spotting Qing Hu, she raised her fist in response towards the direction of Qing Hu.

The bitterness in Qing Hu’s heart was indescribable. He doesn’t know why, but the love he felt had already reached the point of being carved into his bones and engraved in his heart [2].” The reason why he had worked so hard at cultivating was all because of her! The Heavens are fair and does not let down one who puts in

effort. Because of his hard work, Qing Hu managed to breakthrough into the 6th grade when he was 15 years old, but despite this, the disparity of cultivation levels between him and Lan Yan`Er was too huge, as a sense of self-defeat unknowingly gushed forth in his heart.

Although Qing Shui was also a novice in terms of love and relationships, he could still understand the pain Qing Hu was going through. After all, during the years where he could not cultivate, the sneers, humiliation and the pain that he felt, although it could not be directly comparable, it was still somewhat similar to what Qing Hu was feeling right now.

After the initial glance, Qing Shui did not spare another glance at her. Despite her beauty, when compared to Shi Qing Zhuang, Lan Yan`Er was still lacking a bit. Who asked Qing Shui to only like women that were older than him? Not only must their bodies be fully developed, their minds had to be mature as well. Qing Shui just doesn't give a damn about immature girls who act coquettishly and throw tantrums all the time. Speaking of acting coquettishly, Qing Shui actually liked it when a mature girl does that. When a older woman does that, they give off a feeling of rapture that draws him in, completely different from the immature youngsters.

After this, Qing Shui finally left with Qing Hu. For this past half a year, they have had no interactions with each other. Naturally they would have many things on which they wanted to update each other on. After all, they were cousins who had played together since their youth.

“Qing Hu, cultivation has no limits, since you are still young you

should take the chance and immerse yourself in cultivation. For stuff like women, after you become strong, many women will naturally throw themselves into your embrace. When that happens, you will find that the beautiful women from before are not worth a single dime.”

Qing Shui felt that the women from Hundred Miles City, be it in cultivation, demeanor, dress or even in terms of speech, were all far above that of the women from the villages.

Although all of this was only possible because of the difference in background and money. Men would always gravitate towards women of a certain standard. Giving birth to beautiful daughter, marrying a pretty wife? Money both directly and indirectly played a part in this.

Of course, there were exceptions to this as well. Some girls from the villages would sometimes have an aura that even eclipsed that of those from the cities. However, it was very rare for this to happen, and even if that happened, then that precious gem would be quickly snatched away by others. After all, how could people just wait for you to come and grab it?

Regarding the thoughts of Qing Shui, which were noticeably different from the norm, Qing Hu felt that they were slightly bizarre, yet somehow seemed to make sense. Every time he spoke to Qing Shui, it was as though a burden in his heart would be reduced, and Qing Hu would feel slightly more relaxed because of it.

“Tomorrow is the competition, Qing Shui ge, will you take part

in it?”

AST: Chapter 40 – Annual Competition

Amongst the 3rd Generation (3)

Qing Shui was already up and about as dawn broke. After his morning ablutions, he would enter the Qing Clan's courtyard and do some simple stretches. The air in the morning was at its freshest during this part of the day. What Qing Shui wanted to do was to cultivate the Qi in his body by practicing a simple breathing technique, simply by breathing deeply.

The Ancient Strengthening Technique placed emphasis on the refinement of one's body and bones. Everyday without fail, Qing Shui would practice the Solitary Rapid Fist, getting himself used to the harmonization of the muscles of his body, amplifying his strength to the highest level. In a perfect state of harmonization, not to mention a strike containing 100% of his power, even strikes amplified to 200% or higher were possible.

The silence in the courtyard was broken by the growling from the mastiffs lying about, but after seeing that it was Qing Shui, they soon quieted down and went back to their normally docile posture.

“Ghostly Steps!” Shadows flashed as Qing Shui sped across the courtyard. Qing Shui knew that this set of Ghostly Steps were derived from the essence of all escape techniques. It could even be used to evade and flee when one's opponent was monstrously stronger than oneself, solely based on this fact one could tell how unfathomably mysterious this technique was.

Not only that, but in his repertoire was also the Solitary Rapid

Fists! Qing Shui could not help but feel that both the Ghostly Steps and Solitary Rapid Fists complement each other perfectly, almost to the point where one could call it a flawless combination. The two skills he unlocked from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, could actually complement each other to such a degree... This discovery gave Qing Shui pause. Can other skills I obtain from breakthroughs complement each other as well? What a pity that he had still not broken through to the 4th heavenly layer despite such a long time. For the skills that he had already unlocked, the hidden weapon arts, Solitary Rapid Fist as well as Ghostly Steps, he had already cultivated them to a state where it was tough for him to improve them more in the near future.

However, Qing Shui knew that progress on the path of cultivation was akin to a sailing a boat against the currents! Not only would it be hard to break through after a certain level, if one stagnated for too long, one might actually regress as well.

The quintessential essence of the Solitary Rapid Fists lied in both the words “Solitary” and “Rapid”, one must train to the point where a single strike was so fast and agile that it would transform into two, two to four and so on. As for the Ghostly steps, the quintessential essence of it lied in the word “Ghostly”. One must cultivate the technique to the point where one would be as unpredictable as a shadow, and as illusive as a ghost.

In addition, Qing Shui was now proficient in the usage of swords. Contemplating on the essence of the basic sword techniques through Iaido, following the three-worded mantra – Swiftiness, Accuracy, Decisiveness. Swiftiness to the point of lightning, Accuracy refers to the way one wield the sword while Decisiveness pertained to the mental state. The essence of the sword could be

boiled down to: “It is fine if I do not draw my sword, but when I do, I must obtain victory with a single strike, moving first to counter against any possible retaliation.”

It was still morning after he finished his regime, Qing Shui could hear the sounds of the store owners, the sounds of children hoo-hahing through the streets and the melodious sounds of chirping birds.

As he entered his residence, a delicious smell wafted over. Qing Shui looked at the table only to see Qing Yi smiling at him. Laid on the table were two dishes of vegetables and two dishes of wild boar meat, the smell was so alluring that it whet his appetite.

“Shui`er, hurry up and eat your meal, let us go and watch the competition later. Observing the battles of others can only bring benefits to your cultivation, even more so than just merely cultivating.” Qing Yi beseeched Qing Shui to eat as she explained the benefits to him.

“En, I have long since planned to watch the yearly competition today mother, I am sure that today will be interesting~” Qing Shui said with a grin. Looking at the elegant features of Qing Shui, one would be shocked to find that his table manners were somewhat lacking. Armed with a voracious appetite, he devoured everything with a speed that would rival that of combat soldiers. Qing Yi could only watch with a stunned expression on her face.

In his eyes, he didn't bother much about what people thought about him. Qing Shui knew perfectly well that power was everything. If you are strong enough, then no matter what you do or how boorish you are, people would start to emulate you. If you were weak, then no matter how elegant you appeared to be, people would still only think of you as a sissy.

“Eat slower dear, no one is going to snatch the food away from you.” Qing Yi hurriedly said as her eyes bubbled with laughter.

“Mother, who will maintain the order and be the host for this year's competition?” Qing Shui suddenly thought of a question.

“The judges this year will include the Qing Clan, Lan Clan, Feng Clan and the Tong Clan, as well as someone from Hundred Miles City.” Qing Yi replied readily. It seemed like this had always been the case for the past as well.

When Qing Shui rushed to the courtyard, he found that the courtyard was swamped with a sea of people. It was as if everyone in the surrounding regions came if they could make it! It was no wonder however, the societies in the World of the Nine Continents were cultivation-oriented.

Despite the area being densely packed with people, there wasn't a single soul to be seen in the spacious arena. At the rear area of the arena were representatives from the various clans who all sat on chairs with a table in front of them.

Standing at the bottom of the judging area, were members from

each of the judge's clans. For example, the 3rd generation members of the Qing Clan would congregate together with those of the 2nd generation. It was the same for the Lan Clan, Feng Clan and Tong Clan. Of course, there were also many separate groups of people standing there in disperse droves, but these were those who had neither status nor power.

Qing Shui walked towards the Qing Clan members.

“Oh Qing Shui is here, I thought you always hated watching these yearly competitions?” Qing Zi said laughingly as he glanced in Qing Shui's direction.

“Haha, this event is so hyped up that everyone around me says that this year is going to be interesting. Also, this may be my last chance to watch this event. After all, after the coming of age ceremony, I do not know where my path will lead me.” Qing Shui replied with a slight smile on his lips.

Greetings unceasingly flowed from the surroundings and Qing Shui smiled back towards them. All of the 3rd generation members had arrived, and those who were 6th grade martial warrior and higher; Qing Zi, Qing You, Qing Hui, Qing Yang..... Qing Hu and Qing Bei.

The current cultivation level of Qing Bei was already at the peak of the 7th Grade and was just a hair's breadth away from breaking through to the 8th grade. She really lived up to her name as the little genius of the Qing Clan. Despite being one of the youngest, her martial cultivation had already surpassed many others.

A short moment later, Qing Yi and the rest of the 2nd generation arrived. On the stage was Grandpa Qing Luo, which Qing Shui naturally knew. Next to him was Lan Yu from the Lan Clan, which Qing Shui had met a few times before. However, regarding the Tong Clan and the Feng Clan, Qing Shui had never met their judges before. The Tong Clan sent out a middle-aged burly brute while the Feng Clan's representative was a charming young woman.

Qing Shui could not help but glance over at the charming young woman a couple of times. Her skin was fair and as smooth as white silk, her pair of phoenix eyes were also extremely captivating to look at. She wore a sky-blue dress that tightly hugged her curvaceous figure, displaying her body's contour for all to admire as a slight smile hung on her mature and seductive face. Qing Shui was unable to tell her exact age, but he guessed that she was not that young.

As Qing Shui was lost in his appreciation of the Feng Clan beauty, he got shocked back into reality after seeing Situ Nan Tian standing on the stage. To think that the representative judge from the Hundred Miles City would be this sly old fox, Situ Nan Tian. After noticing the presence of Situ Nan Tian, Qing Shui could not help but scan the crowds a few more times, as he did not know whether Situ Bu Fan would also be here amongst the spectators, together with Shi Qing Zhuang. Deep in his heart, Qing Shui had a strong desire to look upon the ice cold countenance of Shi Qing Zhuang again...

As Qing Shui had expected, the main judge amongst the five was that sly old fox! Situ Nan Tian explained the rules once, as his loud

and sonorous voice reached everyone in the crowd.

The rules were common ones: no killing, no poison, no hidden weapons, and once the opponent surrenders, the winner must stay their hand.

After the rules were explained, the start of the competition was immediately announced . This made Qing Shui wonder if all cultivators possessed such a direct manner.

However, what made Qing Shui surprised was that the rules also stated that, out of all the competitors today, the last one standing could be considered the strongest across the 3rd generations.

Still, it was not so bad, as everyone had three chances on stage. This meant that if you were defeated in the first round, you could still choose to fight until you were defeated three times. The only prerequisite was that you were still be able to participate!

After the start of the competition was announced, the main judge departed. Silence reigned in the courtyard as the spectators waited to see who would be the first participant. After a short moment, Qing Hu stepped up on the arena.

The Qing clan knew that, as this were their home ground, this martial competition should naturally begin with one of their own!

AST: Chapter 41 – Qing Bei vs Lan Yan`er

Despite the competition having no limits in regard to the number of people the clans could send, the clans would only select those who had at the bare minimum cultivated to the 6th Grade of the Martial Warrior Realm. The reason being that the divide between the 5th and the 6th Grade could be said to be the first huge cliff that cultivators would face. Cultivators of the 5th Grade could at most be considered slightly stronger humans. It was only when one broke through to the 6th Grade, that they would be considered having set foot upon the path of cultivation. As a result, no matter how many 5th Grade Martial Warriors were sent out, they would all be powerless against a 6th Grade Martial Warrior. They would just be casually defeated with naught but a single move, just like an egg smashing against a rock.

Qing Hu was the first competitor, and as he had just broke through to the 6th Grade of the Martial Warrior Realm, he decided to test his new found strength in the arena. Soon after he entered, an opponent of similar age had entered the arena.

Maybe because Qing Hu was empty-handed, his opponent did not bring any weapons with him as well when he entered the arena.

“Qing Clan, Qing Hu!”

“Lan Clan, Lan Xing!”

After the two fighters did their self-introductions, Situ Nan Tian softly announced the prelude to the battle.

Qing Shui was unsure if Qing Hu had learned any other martial techniques from the Qing Clan, but he was positive that the technique Qing Hu was currently using was none other than the Solitary Rapid Fist he taught him! In Qing Shui's eyes, the strikes and stances executed by Qing Hu looked incomparably clumsy, but apparently it was enough to contend against Lan Xing.

The spectators beneath the arena could tell that when it came to level of strength, attack speed and body movements, Qing Hu was beneath Lan Xing. However, just based on that weird fist technique that he was using, Qing Hu relied on both his agile hands to adequately defend against Lan Xing, and was even successful in causing Lan Xing to retreat a single step. After that exchange, both parties backed off, and Lan Xing stood at the side with his brows furrowed while wringing his numbed hands, as if in shock.

Not giving his opponent any time to rest, Qing Hu rushed forward while carefully considering what were the best paths of attack. Qing Hu could already be considered knowledgeable regarding the locations of the human body's weakest acupoints and important meridians. However, when he faced an opponent of similar strength, despite knowing the positions and weaknesses, the probability of striking at specific acupoints was not high. Even so, Qing Hu's execution was brilliant, and after the second exchange Lan Xing was dumbstruck.

Despite his numbed hands, Lan Xing forcefully clenched his fingers into a fist, and roared as he rushed towards Qing Hu. It seemed that he had learned his lesson, and wanted to depend on his advantageous speed and body movements to fight with Qing Hu instead of fighting head on.

Qing Hu calmly held his ground despite Lan Xing's speed. Qing Hu knew that if Lan Xing wanted to defeat him, it would not be an easy matter at all. Every time Lan Xing wanted to strike at Qing Hu, he would have to come in range of Qing Hu's terrifying fists. Qing Hu slightly raised his arms and readied his fists, delivering devastating attacks whenever there was an opportunity. Gradually, Lan Xing's reaction got slower and slower, while Qing Hu's fists attacks got more and more nimble! This was the effect caused by experiencing actual combat!

As the rules forbade attacks that would cause death, and in addition because there was no hatred between Qing Hu and Lan Xing, Qing Hu refrained from attacking any of the deadly acupoints located on his opponent's head area. Biding his time, and waiting for the right opportunity, Qing Hu finally sprang forward, and caught his opponent by surprise. Using his nimble arms to execute the Solitary Rapid Fist Technique, he positioned himself at Lan Xing's back and skillfully jabbed at the Tian Zhu, Fu Fen, Da Zhu, Fei Yu acupoints [1] around the back neck region of Lan Xing.

Even Qing Shui was awed by Qing Hu's graceful execution. When Qing Hu looked over, Qing Shui showed his approval with his eyes, and with a slight smile on his lips, he slightly nodded his head in the direction of Qing Hu.

After the fight, the Lan Clan sent two more 6th Grade Martial warriors which were defeated by Qing Hu in the same skillful manner. At this point, not only were the other clans startled by Qing Hu's performance, even the 2nd and 3rd generation of his own Qing Clan felt that he was incredible.

Gradually, Qing Hu was defeated by a 7th Grade Martial Warrior. There was glory even in his defeat. After which, a 7th Grade Martial Warrior of the Tong Clan defeated the 7th Grade Martial Warrior of the Lan Clan, but they in turn lost to a girl from the Feng Clan.

At the end of the 7th Grade Martial Warrior's fight, Lan Yan`er was the only one left standing. There was simply no one that could match her under the 8th Grade. Looking at the unyielding woman he loved standing in the arena, a bittersweet feeling surfaced in Qing Hu's heart.

Indeed, Lan Yan`er was the little genius that was the pride of Lan Clan. Even Qing Yang and Qing Hui had suffered defeat in her hands. The short moment of glory Qing Hu brought to the Qing Clan, quickly dissipated as the Lan Clan stole the limelight.

Looking at Lan Yan`er who was currently in high spirits and exhibiting an air of unbound arrogance standing on the stage. After she had defeated another 7th Grade Martial Warrior at the peak of the 7th Grade, Qing Bei grit her teeth and jumped into the arena.

“Sigh, forget it, letting this little kid experience the pain of defeat can only be beneficial for her future cultivation.” Qing Hai bitterly said.

Although there was a distance between Lan Yan`er who was at the peak of the 7th Grade, as well as Qing Bei who just stepped into

the 7th Grade; Qing Bei showed no fear as she narrowed her eyes and locked her gaze onto Lan Yan`er.

Lan Yan`er had already fully matured as she had already gone through puberty, and could be considered enchanting by males anywhere as they were hooked by the flirtatious expression in her gaze. In comparison, Qing Bei was a rose that had yet to fully mature, who emitted a pure and vivacious feeling.

“You are not my opponent, just obediently retreat, elder sister wouldn’t bear to see you in pain.” Lan Yan`er smiled widely, with her eyes twinkling, as they narrowed to the shape of crescent moons.

“Ahh, what a pity. Even she was older, her character is definitely not my cup of tea. Furthermore, Qing Hu is in love with her.” Qing Shui told himself secretly, as he gazed upon the enchanting visage of Lan Yan`er.

“Ten moves! I only need ten moves to defeat you. If you are still not defeated by then, I will admit defeat.” Qing Bei calmly said as her words left everyone in the audience thunderstruck.

Even Qing Shui was thunderstruck. He had always thought of Qing Bei as a gentle little lamb, and it seemed that this was not so. Qing Bei had actually dared to issue such a proclamation!

Maybe the proclamation had humiliated Lan Yan`er, as she did not expect Qing Bei to act so bold. As her smile froze on her face, she grimly said “Oh is that so, you better be careful then.” Lan

Yan`er drew out a light blue sharp sword that had defeated countless others. The color of the sword was as clear as water, such that it could be likened to the limpid eyes of a woman.

In response, Qing Bei took out a set of gauntlets that were made of chains and equipped them. The gauntlets covered all the way up her arms. She inclined her head to look at the waiting Lan Yan`er.

Qing Shui knew that the chain gauntlets Qing Bei was using were made from the silk of the icy silkworm only found far in the northern regions. It was impervious to cuts and slashes from ordinary weapons. Beneath the arena, earlier when Qing Hu was fighting, Qing Bei had already told Qing Shui about the origins of this set of chain gauntlets. It was bought by Qing Luo, and there was only one pair of them within the Qing Clan. It could be considered an above average weapon, as the user could still move agilely with them equipped, compared to being encased in heavy gauntlets made of gold and steel which slowed the user down.

The moment Qing Bei first made her move, Qing Shui was dumbstruck. Not only Qing Shui, even the entire Qing Clan was too. Who would have known that Qing Bei had already reached the initial stage of the Qing Clan's Lotus Step. Combining the Lotus Step along with the Solitary Rapid Fist, it was truly a dazzling sight to behold!

Of course, that would not be enough to warrant such startlement. What was truly magnificent, was that the execution of the Solitary Rapid Fist by Qing Bei was even more spectacular than Qing Hu's execution earlier. It seemed as though Qing Bei had already grasped the true essence of the words "Solitary and Rapid",

and had truly understood the quintessential essence of this set of fist techniques!

Qing Bei was comparable to a ferocious leopard, lithe and agile, yet she also possessed overbearing strength. She left the audience gasping in admiration as she advanced towards Lan Yan`er.

“No wonder this little brat dared to issue such a proclamation. It seems like she wants to use the pressure of a psychological battle in combination with the insights she grasped to thoroughly crush Lan Yan`er.” Qing Shui came to this realization as he watched the small frame of Qing Bei delivering strikes with the pressure of Mount Tai, as she slowly pushed Lan Yan`er back.

To win in a fight, one had to tread the narrow path of bravery to victory. Currently, this description best outlined the situation between Lan Yan`er and Qing Bei. The intricate strikes of Qing Bei were comparable to the storms of a typhoon. Her arms could be likened to snakes, as she mercilessly struck out.

“The 8th move!” Qing Bei stated, as her body flashed past while she avoided the horizontal sweep of Lan Yan`er’s sword.

After being accustomed to the sword strikes of Lan Yan`er, Qing Bei wasted no more time. “I have already seen through all your techniques,” she said before nimbly rushing forward with the speed of a shooting star, and mercilessly striking her fist at Lan Yan`er’s Tian Tu Acupoint (2), which knocked her unconscious.

This was the 9th move of Qing Bei!

AST: Chapter 42 – One Move

After Qing Bei defeated Lan Yan`er, the audience members were all momentarily shocked into silence. Even Qing Luo was somewhat embarrassed, staring at the head of the Lan Clan, Lan Yu. His own granddaughter actually possessed a strength akin to a strong wind sweeping the leaves, and defeated the genius – Lan Yan`er who was two years older than her.

Lan Yu stood there motionlessly at a loss, but after a moment, he quickly arranged a few others from the Lan Clan to carry the unconscious Lan Yan`er away from the arena. Qing Bei did not continue to stand in the arena, she only said a single sentence before jumping down from the stage. “I’m only up here because I couldn’t stand her arrogance.”

After saying her peace, Qing Bei left the arena. But the words she said had reverberated in the eardrums of the Lan Yu, as he secretly said in his heart, “Little brat, your actions just now could be considered even more presumptuous and conceited than my Yan`er.”

Despite the competition between the various great clans, all of them still needed to depend on each other as they worked together to safeguard and maintain the Qing Village. Luckily, Qing Bei was young enough that despite her words smacking of arrogance, the tone behind them seemed to have hints of mischievousness in them. Furthermore, the foxy lady with the curvaceous figure and pair of phoenix eyes from the Feng Clan covered her mouth as she laughed lightly, which instantly dispelled the awkward atmosphere. Glancing at that pair of captivating eyes, Qing Shui could not help but felt a nefarious burning sensation down in his

loins, as his heart trembled and his eyes flashed with desire.

“What a hot babe, I don’t know which lucky guy can hug her to sleep at night. Look at those gigantic twin peaks. Oh my god! That mature and seductive face combined with those flirtatious glances flashing through her captivating pair of eyes, how could any man resist her?” Qing Shui whispered, enchanted.

After which, the arena was shared by Qing Zi with a tall and slender lady with a buxom figure from the Feng Clan. Equipped in her hands, were two chakrams that were a fiery-red in color.

The weapon that Qing Zi chose to use actually gave Qing Shui a sense of amazement. This was because the weapon Qing Zi used was actually a great silvery axe with a height similar to Qing Zi! The width of the axe’s head accounted for about one-third that of a human body, fully covering the chest and abdomen area of a human.

Qing Shui gauged that the weapon’s weight should be about 150 jin. That impressive looking great axe also emitted a certain psychological pressure, causing opponents to slightly panic as they looked upon such a huge weapon. Swiftly after, both of them started to duel.

Only after they both had announced their names, did Qing Shui know that this girl from the Feng Clan who uses the two chakrams as her weapons was named Feng Yan`fei.

After the first exchange, Qing Shui could tell that barring any

unexpected incidents, victory would go to Qing Zi. As he had expected, Qing Zi was not simple at all, looking at the way he wielded the huge axe, like a swallow flying across the skies, there were no hints of clumsiness that would usually be associated with using such an unwieldy weapon. His insights into the way of the axe had already broken through to a realm that most ordinary people would not be able to reach!

In comparison, Lan Yan`fei was in a slightly more difficult position. As a woman, her strength could not be compared to Qing Zi. If it was not for her superb agility, she would have been defeated long ago by Qing Zi.

Qing Zi calmly executed his techniques, with no hint of hurriedness in his actions. If he was overly intent on winning, Feng Yan`fei may have the opportunity to exploit his carelessness. Qing Zi calmly persisted, be it in the amount of strength or speed of attacks, every strike of his was executed to perfection.

“Brother Qing Zi, I admit my defeat. Thank you for showing me mercy!” Feng Yan`fei retreated as she said in a very poised and dignified manner, gazing at Qing Zi with a hint of admiration in her eyes.

“Thank you for letting me win!” Qing Zi smiled good-naturedly.

“I wish Brother Qing Zi luck in the next battle. If you are free, this little sister would like to exchange more pointers with you.” Feng Yan`fei shyly said as she turned her body and descended the arena.

“Oohhhh~” catcalls rang out from the audience.

“This damned little brat actually felt the stirring of romance in the middle of a competition.” The beautiful Feng Clan’s leader gently smiled. After which, she glanced over at Qing Luo who was happily laughing as he slightly nodded his head in the direction of the Feng Clan’s leader.

As the competition continued, Qing Zi was matched against another guy. Only then did the guy realize that Qing Zi had indeed shown mercy when he was dueling Feng Yan`fei.

The great axe with power akin to a tornado swept across the arena. Very few of the 8th Grade Martial Warriors could last more than 10 rounds when faced against it. Humans would always tend to gravitate towards people with strength! Especially when such an explosive strength was unleashed with killing intent, which was an extremely magnificent sight to behold. Despite Qing Zi’s current strength being far from tyrannical, it was sufficient enough to cause the audience to look at him in a new light.

The smile on Qing Luo’s face had never ceased. Qing Hu, Qing Bei and now, Qing Zi, all of them had caused his eyes to shine with brilliance, setting an example for those in the 3rd generation. In comparison, Lan Yu from the Lan Clan and the middle-aged guy from the Tong Clan were shaking their heads in despair. Especially Lan Yu, the beautiful little genius of the Lan Clan had actually lost to a girl two years younger than her. Not to mention that now, the Lan Clan’s members who were sent up against Qing Zi were all ruthlessly smashed down.

It was as if Qing Zi temporarily had divine might. His sturdy frame exploded with ferocious strength; he looked like a valiant general slaughtering his foes in defense of his home land. There were more than a few gazes lost in rapture as they were riveted on his muscular frame.

Which teenage girl did not wish to have such a husband? Looking at Qing Zi's good natured smile, loud voices of praise along with the screams of excitement from the teenage girls unceasingly rang out from beneath the arena.

"This world is seriously crazy!" Qing Shui shook his head as he observed the audience.

There was sudden silence as the 9th Grade Martial Warrior, Tong Gang, stepped up on the arena platform with a green steel sword in his hands. Qing Shui surveyed the audience, as he knew that the sword was a popular choice of weapon for people in the World of the Nine Continents. Indeed, more than half the audience were sword-users.

Clashing with someone who was a grade higher in terms of cultivation than him, the speed and ferociousness level that Qing Zi demonstrated earlier, began to lessen. The gap between the difference in cultivation was no joke, and the strength level difference was very obvious. The difference of one grade was comparable the gap of a huge canal, sorely causing cultivators to unable to cross over. Of course, there were still cultivators who could defeat someone of a higher grade, but the rate of occurrence of that could be compared to the feathers of a phoenix and the horns of a giraffe. It was extremely rare for that to happen.

Tong Gang's green steel sword unleashed a torrent of sword strikes comparable to the heavy waves of the ocean. Every time sword and axe clashed, the first energy wave of the sword strike would block the huge axe of Qing Zi, while the second wave, with strength similar to the first, would instantly rush towards Qing Zi.

Finally, after defending for a period of time, Qing Zi's energy reserve gradually diminished as he was eventually defeated. However, he had gained the respect of those in the audience as voices of encouragement and warm applause rang out as Qing Zi exited the arena.

The competition continued, Feng Xishui defeated Tong Gang, but ended up conceding to Lan Ye. All of them were sword users, but after observing their fight, Qing Shui snorted in contempt. No matter how he observed, he felt that the sword strikes displayed by those 9th Grade Martial Warriors from the other Clans were simply abysmal in his eyes. Their swords were too slow and stiff.

The last contender who challenged Lan Ye, was the genius of the Qing Clan, Qing You. Looking at Qing You, Qing Shui could not help but suck in a breath. The sturdiness of Qing You's body, especially his back and waist, could be comparable to a tiger and a bear respectively. And especially his biceps, were at least 30% bigger than Qing Zi. His weapons of choice were a twin set of gigantic hammers, each one comparable to the size of Qing Zi's silvery great axe. The hammers were extremely mysterious. One was unable to tell what materials had been used to create the two hammers, which shone with a dim black light.

Even the audience members were dumbstruck, what... the strength level of the Qing Clan's 3rd generation is insane! Is there a need for each and every one of them to wield such gigantic weapons?

Qing Zi and Qing You were both the sons of Qing Jiang, so they were blood brothers!

Qing You who was a 10th Grade Martial Warrior, only executed a single move from his two gigantic hammers before forcing Lan Ye out of the arena. Wielding both hammers, he sped towards Lan Ye, as he swirled like a spinning top. The dance of the two hammers was so fast that it left no openings, and was so well coordinated that it was even impenetrable by the wind.

At this moment, smiles broke out on the faces of those of the Qing Clan. One strike... with only a single strike, Qing You had forced Lan Ye out of the competition. Qing You had even held back when he struck. If not for him holding back, despite being a 9th Grade Martial Warrior, even Lan Ye would have been pulverized between the twin hammers.

After a short moment of silence, fanatical shouts and cheers rang out from the audience. Qing You stood atop the arena, with a face filled with craftiness akin to that of a goblin. Along with that massive frame of a body, he exuded a demonic-like charm as teenage girls screamed their approval in excitement.

However, after that, a face that was familiar to Qing Shui appeared up on the arena and coldly exclaimed, "I want to fight as well!"

“Bu Fan, stop your nonsense.” Situ Nan Tian lightly said.

“Forget it, since Bu Fan has already set foot in the arena, just let the kids play together!” Lan Yu said as he smiled.

“Hmm since Brother Lan said so... what about the rest?” Situ Nan Tian looked the judges as he asked for their opinions.

The rest of the judges quickly agreed, after all this situation was quite common.

“One move, if I can’t defeat you in one move, it shall be counted as my loss!” Situ Bu Fan sneered. In Qing Shui’s eyes, Situ Bu Fan looked like a buffoon, idiotically exclaiming such a nonsensical statement as if he was trying to awe the audience.

AST: Chapter 43 – Qing Shui’s Magnificent Strike

“One move, if I can’t defeat you in one move, it shall be counted as my loss!” Situ Bu Fan sneered. In Qing Shui’s eyes, Situ Bu Fan looked like a buffoon by idiotically exclaiming such a nonsensical statement and trying to awe the audience.

However Qing Shui knew that despite Situ Bu Fan’s megalomania, he should have seen the martial strength of Qing You, and yet, he still dared to enter the arena and make such a proclamation. Situ Bu Fan’s cultivation level should either be at the peak of the Martial Warrior realm, or maybe he had already broken through the Martial General threshold.

Qing You, looking at the handsome and wildly arrogant guy in front of him, felt a sudden impulse to smash the twin hammers on Situ Bu Fan’s head.

Qing Shui felt nothing but disgust when he looked upon that nauseating smile plastered on Situ Bu Fan’s face. What a pretentious prick!

“Come boy, I will gift you the first three moves, if I didn’t... I’m afraid you wouldn’t even get the opportunity to attack me.” Upon hearing that, Qing You had a nasty expression on his face. He wasted no time, and rushed forward while wielding his twin hammers with herculean strength. Fast and furious!

Situ Bu Fan was akin to a leaf floating in the middle of a tornado

as he calmly sidestepped to the left, causing Qing You's attack to miss.

“First move!”

After hearing Situ Bu Fan's provocation, Qing You chopped both his hammers with a burst of speed comparable to lightning towards Situ Bu Fan. Still sneering, Situ Bu Fan lightly retreated in an instant, and continued his provocation.

“Second move!”

Just as Situ Bu Fan finished speaking, at the moment when he had dodged the attack of the twin hammers; Qing You joined both the twin hammers together in a stance resembling that of the character “—”. It formed a weapon with over 5m in width, as he executed his whirlwind technique, swirling like a spinning top, once again speeding towards Situ Bu Fan.

For a moment, the arena itself was shaken by the tremendous might generated by the technique Qing You displayed. However, Situ Bu Fan executed his peculiar body movement technique, took a half step forward, backward, left and right. Evading the impact of the hammers by a paper-thin margin. Such was his level of mastery that he even had time in the midst of Qing You's ferocious attacks to alter the direction of the hammers attack!

“Third move!”

“Ahhh!” Qing You roared again. It was unknown if he was panicking, or was cheering for himself as he maneuvered his twin hammers again, and aimed for the chest region of Situ Bu Fan.

At this moment, Situ Bu Fan curled his lips upwards forming an unpleasant smile, as he struck out with his fist. As he struck out, waves of soft green light were emitted from his fist, enveloping it, giving the impression that his fist had actually grown by a size!

“Cha cha!”

“Pu!”

The former sound occurred as fist and hammer made contact, and the second sound rang out because Qing You involuntarily spat out a mouthful of fresh blood. He was flung out of the arena from the impact of the blow, rendering him unconscious.

“Awww, I’m sorry, I already held back. Who would have thought that brother Qing You was so weak that he would accidentally get injured by me.” Situ Bu Fan lightly said as he gazed admiringly at the fist he used to defeat Qing You. “What a pretentious bastard!” Qing Shui could not help thinking after he saw that, anger clouding his features.

Qing Luo was affected too, but he quickly regained his normal composure. After Qing You was carried away for treatment, all the members of the Qing Clan had unsightly expressions on their visages.

“Martial General Realm, he must have broken through the Martial General Realm!” A low voice droned out as members of the audience began their discussions.

“How impressive, he really used a single strike to defeat Qing You, I guess that he must have at least broken through to the 2nd Grade of the Martial General Realm.”

“Bullshit, what do you know. From my observations, he should be at the 5th Grade of the Martial General Realm. My cousin is at a 2nd Grade Martial General but when compared to Situ Bu Fan, he is still somewhat lacking,” a skinny youth retorted.

“Ah, I see brother. Your cousin is really amazing, maybe I can befriend him in the future?”

“No problem!” The skinny youth replied.

“I wonder what your cousin is busy with recently, when would he have the time to meet up?”

“Oh, surely he would have had the time, but what a pity that he was killed 2 years ago!” The skinny youth shook his head, sighing in depression.

The guy who was talking to the skinny youth almost vomited blood and fainted, “Dead people... I don’t want to meet dead people urghhhh”

Situ Nan Tian tried his best to suppress the elation rising in his heart, and was barely able to do so. Mumbling to himself in secret, he said “What a bunch of country bumpkins, fighting to see whoever is the strongest? Even if you are the strongest so what? In the end, only with a single strike, you were still defeated by my grandson. What a joke, what a waste of time.”

As the head judge, it would not do for him to burst out into laughter, so the sly old fox could only fake embarrassment, coughing softly.

Standing on the arena, and looking the expression of awe on the faces of the audience, Situ Bu Fan’s smile got wider and wider. Qing Shui felt like vomiting looking at that nauseating smile on his face. Unable to bear it any longer, Qing Shui jumped up onto the arena.

“It’s you? You want to challenge me?” Situ Bu Fan creased his face. He was in the midst of basking in the gazes of admiration when unexpectedly, he saw another youth jump up onto the arena. Wasn’t this action equivalent to slapping his face, and trying to steal his glory?

Looking at that pretentious bastard, Qing Shui had long ago wanted to punch his face and send him sprawling on the ground.

“Qing Shui!”

Qing Shui heard Qing Yi called out, with worry clouding her beautiful features. Turning his head, he calmly gestured at Qing Yi,

as if telling her not to worry, and that everything was under his control.

“One move, if I can’t defeat you in one move, it shall be counted as my loss!” Qing Shui knew that the best way to humiliate pretentious bastards, was to use their own words against them.

Situ Bu Fan had hated Qing Shui even back then when they first met. He felt that Qing Shui was a threat to him. His own fiancée, Shi Qing Zhuang was famed for being a ice princess. She would never hold a conversation with any guys, even if the guy was her own fiance – Situ Bu Fan! However, to think that she had actually spoken with Qing Shui!

After hearing Qing Shui say that he would defeat him with one move, Situ Bu Fan burst out laughing. But even before he finished laughing, Situ Bu Fan suddenly choked as he heard the next sentence from Qing Shui.

“Come boy, I will gift you the first three moves, if not... I’m afraid you wouldn’t even get the opportunity to attack me.” Qing Shui lightly spoke, mimicking the demeanor of Situ Bu Fan earlier.

The members of the audience could no longer hold back as they began to chortle with laughter. Situ Bu Fan knew that the words Qing Shui spoken was directed to him, mocking him for his earlier behaviour. All his earlier arrogance was replaced by a burning sense of killing intent as all his face was lost by Qing Shui’s actions.

With fury suffusing his facial features, Situ Bu Fan rushed

forward, striking out with his fist towards the chest area of Qing Shui, but Qing Shui who had the aid of the Ghostly Steps, was akin to a leaf floating in a tornado, mimicking Situ Bu Fan's actions earlier, and lightly sidestepped to the left.

“First move!”

Members of the audience were stunned for a moment, but quickly roared out laughing. All the words and actions of Qing Shui on the arena were exactly the same as what Situ Bu Fan had done earlier!

“Ah!” Situ Bu Fang no longer had the arrogant expression from before, even he himself did not know why every time he meet Qing Shui, he would be filled with an inexplicable anger so intense that his blood would boil.

“Second Move!”

Qing Shui easily dodged the infuriated strike of Situ Bu Fan.

Situ Bu Fan no longer dared to underestimate the enemy as he finally used a fist technique. Both of his fists were emitting waves of light green light, punching towards Qing Shui with an incomparably quick speed as he caged Qing Shui in a flurry of fists shadows. Qing Shui outwardly looked to be in a difficult position, but he was inwardly calm as he used the Ghostly Steps, and faded in and out of the shadows, only dodging each hit at the last possible moment.

“Third move!” Qing Shui spat out the word, causing Situ Bu Fan’s hatred of him to rise to the heavens.

“You piece of shit, if you truly have the ability, then don’t dodge, let us directly clash with each other.” Brimming with killing intent, “Boom, boom!” Sounds of his fist strikes echoed in the air as Situ Bu Fan upped his speed, and unleashed even more fist shadows at the vital areas of Qing Shui’s head. It seems that Situ Bu Fan no longer cared about his pride nor the rules of the competition. He was aiming to kill!

Truly angered, Qing Shui glared at Situ Bu Fan’s increasingly desperate strikes. Qing Shui no longer hesitated and fully infused both his arms with divine strength, circulating the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, as he explosively shot up both his palms in the air. With his strength of 20,000 jin, he caught the arms of Situ Bu Fan in the midst of the fist shadows.

“Ka Cha!”

“Pu!”

“Urgh!”

The first sound occurred when the explosive impact broke off both of Situ Bu Fan’s arms from the attack. The second sound rang out because the explosive impact had directly travelled to his chest region, which caused him to spit out a mouthful of fresh blood. Lastly, the third sound sounded out just before Situ Bu Fan slipped inside the soothing embrace of unconsciousness. Qing Shui’s

efforts sent Situ Bu Fan flying from the arena, and finally landing on the ground 10m away.

“It is you who wanted to clash directly with me, so you can’t blame me for this. ” Qing Shui glanced at both his arms as he sheepishly said “ “Awww, I’m sorry, I already held back. Who would have thought that brother Bu Fan was so weak that he would accidentally get injured by me.”

However, there was no laughter this time round. All members of the audience were staring mutely at Qing Shui, as if their voices had been stolen by the impossible situation that had just occurred. Even the Qing Clan was staring at him, as if thunderstruck. Qing Shui shyly scratched his head, assuming an well-behaved expression before saying: ““I’m only up here because I couldn’t stand his arrogance anymore.”

Beneath the arena, upon hearing that, the adorable face of Qing Bei began to turn red from laughter. She was uncontrollably laughing, even after tears had started coming out of her eyes. That final sentence was what she had said after she defeated Lan Yan`er!

AST: Chapter 44 – Coming of Age Ceremony

After witnessing Qing Shui's flawless victory over Situ Bu Fan, Qing Luo was momentarily rendered speechless, but he managed to recover. Glancing at Situ Nan Tian standing there with a stony expression on his face, standing there laughing awkwardly, every time Qing Luo thought of the words Qing Shui said after he exited the arena, he would involuntarily cringe. "I'm only at the 3rd Grade of the Martial Warrior Realm. As everyone knows, I'm trash when it comes to cultivation. I only managed to win simply because I have more brute strength than others."

Wasn't this equivalent to Qing Shui slapping the faces of those who had participated in the competition earlier? However, Qing Luo loved it. This is how a man should be! Strength decided everything, only with sufficient strength would one have the authority to speak.

Situ Nan Tian wanted to find a hole and hide his face. Even after thousands of calculations, no matter how he calculated, never did he expect himself to miss out on the fact that this trash, Qing Shui, could defeat Situ Bu Fan! Only now did he know that the "trash" that was ridiculed by everyone in the Qing Village was actually their hidden ace. Shaking his head, he sighed "Qing Luo... Ah, you cunning old fox."

What Situ Nan Tian didn't know was that Qing Luo was also kept in the dark regarding the true strength of Qing Shui!

Initially, Situ Nan Tian's plan was to bring along Situ Bu Fan, who had already broken through to the 3rd Grade of the Martial

General Realm to fully suppress the Qing Clan's members. Who knew that, the opposite occurred instead, turning the Situ Clan into a joke of such huge proportions that it may even be spread to Hundred Miles City.

After the battle concluded, Qing Shui became the youngest expert of the Qing Clan. Using only a single move he knocked the 3rd Grade Martial General, Situ Bu Fan into unconsciousness. What kind of strength did he really possess? At the bare minimum, to be able to do as he did, his level of cultivation should be at least a grade or two higher than Situ Bu Fan.

While he had had his share of the limelight, Qing Shui knew that trouble would soon follow. Firstly, let's not talk about other things, just merely the questioning of his family alone would give him a headache. Luckily, Qing Shui had long anticipated that there would be a day like this, and had made preparations for it. The lies which he unwillingly fed to Qing Yi earlier in the year would be the light leading him out of this tunnel.

After Qing Shui came down from the stage, he could see the expressions on the 3rd generation clan members ranging from awe, surprise, respect and even worship. In the past, the 3rd generation clan members would always looked up to Qing You, admiring his muscular frame and unruly strength. However, only now did they discover that the "trash" in everyone's eyes was a person that vastly surpassed what they had always known to be the epitome of strength. A person that silently endured their harsh words and torment, hiding his true strength until there was a reason for him to no longer do so. How could they not help but admire Qing Shui?

Everyone in the Qing Clan knew that Qing Shui had always been expending all his efforts to the point of disregarding food and drink, all for the sake of improving his cultivation. Despite this, he had always been labeled trash. If he didn't work hard enough, and his strength was low, then people would say that he was nothing but a lazy bum. If he had worked even harder, but with no improvements to his cultivation, people would only say that he is dumb and stupid. Truly, strength was everything. Weakness meant that no matter what he did, he would always be in the wrong.

When compared to the 3rd generation clan members, the 2nd generation and Qing Luo had only felt a deep sense of shock with regards to the prowess Qing Shui had displayed. A person who possessed strength, yet he was willing to be labeled trash. He spent years after years enduring painstaking cultivation to temper himself, and withstanding the loneliness and as well as suffering the sarcastic remarks and gossiping of others. A 15 year old youth actually had the mental fortitude to bear all of that?

After Qing Yi saw Qing Shui, she rushed over to embrace him in a hug. To think that this child of hers had the strength all along, yet chose to endure it. Her child had really grown up. She knew that the reason why Qing Shui had expended so much efforts on cultivation was because previously, no matter what he tried, he had been unable to cultivate! Now that the heavens had given the chance back to him, of course he would grab it.

What Qing Yi didn't know was that, the true reason of why Qing Shui strived so hard was to seek redress for her! A redress for being driven out of the rightful home of her husband! If she knew it, that Qing Shui's efforts were only for herself, she would probably be

dumbstruck.

“Shui gege, you are so powerful. I too, can’t stand the nauseating actions of that pretentious prick, Situ Bu Fan. Suffering from the delusion that he is the strongest in the world. He simply stinks of arrogance! But now, it’s great! Shui gege actually crushed him with a single move, and even caused him to spit out blood. Even if he recovers, all his face and pride will be gone.” Qing Bei gleefully spoke, as if she was the one that had defeated Situ Bu Fan. She excitedly chattered away as the smile on her face only got wider and wider.

“Haha talk about yourself. Xiao bei, you better wait for Lan Yan`er to find you. You actually caused her to suffer such a disgrace.” Qing Shui laughed, as he interrupted Qing Bei’s ceaseless chatter.

Qing Shui knew that there was bound to be an “interrogation session”. Soon after, as expected, under the gaze of Qing Luo, Qing Shui once again fed the lies about the ancient old man in the mountains that he had once told Qing Yi, to the rest of the members from the 2nd generation. Although they were still somewhat hesitant to believe in him, the results he had displayed earlier couldn’t lie. After all, seeing is believing right? Furthermore, Qing Shui was famed for expending untold amounts of effort in his cultivation!

Even so, they still had doubts as to why Qing Shui was still unable to break through the 3rd layer of the Blue Lotus Art. After discussing it for sometime, they could only conclude that Qing Shui’s body was unsuitable for cultivating the Blue Lotus Art.

After the battle, the name Qing Shui resounded throughout the whole of the Qing Village, and became the example of the younger generations. Initially, when Qing Shui was labeled as a trash, he had been very low profile and no one would even look twice at him. Now that he was famous, suddenly everyone realized how exquisite looking his features were. For the past few days, Qing Shui discovered that there were plenty of people which he was not acquainted with coming forth to speak to him. There were even plenty of females in the village that cast shy glances at him. All of this caused Qing Shui to be at a loss as to whether he should laugh or cry. In addition to that, there were plenty of proposals for marriage being brought out, however, they were all rejected by Qing Shui. What he wanted now was to quickly reach the XianTian realm. After that, how would he be worried about not being able to get a wife?

During the 10th day of the chinese new year, Qing Shui and the rest underwent the coming of age ceremony. The ceremony was of paramount importance in the world of the nine continents. Only after the ceremony would they be legally considered adults. Marriage, having children, setting up a family and starting your own career, all that could only be condoned after one had gone through the coming of age ceremony.

The things to note during the ceremony were very simple, one simply had to bow to the heavens, the earth and their ancestors before it was concluded. Alongside Qing Shui, there was also Qing Shan and Qing Shi undergoing the ceremony with him.

Qing Shan did not like cultivation, so he would be send out to the Hundred Miles City to conduct some of the businesses under the

Qing Clan. Qing Shi on the other hand, was passionate about cultivation, but unfortunately his talent was limited, and had only reached the 4th layer of the Blue Lotus Art at the age of 16.

Before this, everyone had thought that the three of them would be sent out of the village to help in the Qing Clan business in the Hundred Miles City. Never did they expect that Qing Shui was like a shining gem fallen from the stars.

Especially Qing Luo, he felt that the situation had happened too fast, as if it was surreal. Initially after the Situ Clan caused humiliation to the Qing Clan, defeating Qing You of the same age with only a single move, never would anyone have thought that the trash of the family actually jumped out and turned the tables back on the Situ Clan! At that moment, Qing Luo was still lost in shock, unable to believe his eyes.

“Ah, happiness usually occurs at the most unexpected moments.”

—

The coming of age ceremony ended quickly, now that everyone knew of Qing Shui's potential, how would the Qing Clan send him out to merely run their businesses?

Contrary to everyone's expectation, Qing Shui actually volunteered himself to go to the Hundred Miles City and help Qing Yi. Facing plenty of objections, with Qing Yi included. Qing Shui did not relent. Once he had decided on something, Qing Shui would rarely change his mind. In the end, he had to mix lies

together with truth, and told Qing Luo that his cultivation had reached a critical stage and it would probably help if he went out to experience new things...

AST: Chapter 45 – A Divine Crippling Pill

The celebration for the new year would only be finished at the end of the month. The coming of age ceremony was completed on the 10th day of the new year. The Qing Clan was currently the happiest they had ever been. Especially the incident of Qing Shui, when he had defeated the arrogant Situ Bu Fan, was deeply etched in everyone's minds because it had raise their prestige to a whole new level.

The Solitary Rapid Fist, especially when used by both Qing Hu and Qing Bei, had power beyond that of the norm. It was an open secret that Qing Shui was the one who taught the stances to them. The other members of the Qing Clan could only stare in envy, but were too embarrassed to ask Qing Shui to teach them this technique.

Qing Luo had great foresight, he saw the benefits of the Solitary Rapid Fist, and was awed by the technique. He had already approached Qing Shui to discuss if Qing Shui was willing to allow all of the members of the Qing Clan to cultivate this particular fist technique. One of the main points was that by cultivating the Solitary Rapid Fist stances, one could hone the nimbleness and flexibility of their limbs. This would only benefit the members in the future as they started to learn the use of other weapons.

To Qing Luo, he felt that the Solitary Rapid Fist techniques were not a closely guarded secret. Since Qing Shui had already taught it to Qing Hu and Qing Bei, he hoped that Qing Shui would be willing to ask his teacher (the ancient old man) to see if it could be taught to the other clan members as well.

“No problem!” Qing Shui replied forthrightly. Firstly, the technique was unlocked when he had broken through the Ancient Strengthening Technique. He had no “ancient old man” teacher as to speak of. Secondly, when cultivating the Solitary Rapid Fist technique, talent was very important. Even if he printed out hard copies and disseminated it across the whole village, there wouldn’t be much impact. Also not to mention, the ones he would be teaching it to, would be his own clan members.

After Qing You recovered, he sunk into a deep depression. As the top disciple of the Qing Clan’s 3rd Generation, he could not even parry a single strike from Situ Bu Fan. These actions caused the whole of the Qing Clan to be disgraced by his hands.

Looking at how depressed his son was, Qing Jiang tried to uplift his spirits by relating the whole series of events that happened after he fainted. Qing You felt that the whole story was a bunch of bullshit. It was too incredulous, especially how Qing Shui defeated Situ Bu Fan with only a single strike. If not for the fact that so many people witnessed it happening, there was no one who would have believed it either. After hearing the story, Qing You gathered a few close friends and even went to verify the story with Lan Ye from the Lan Clan. Lan Ye’s reputation as a person who did not lie finally allowed him to believe that the story was true.

Only after the verification did Qing You appear to recover somewhat from his depression. After all, the shadow of Situ Bu Fan’s pretentious face kept looming in his mind, akin to a bad dream. He could not help lamenting the fact that he was not strong enough to smash his twin hammers onto Situ Bu Fan’s head. Qing You could only lament that he was not able to personally witness

Qing Shui making a fool out of Situ Bu Fan.

Qing You had always been an impetuous person. Before he had even recovered from his injuries, he already leapt from his bed and rushed straight to look for Qing Shui. Qing Jiang could only look at the fast departing silhouette of Qing You as he shook his head. He knew that such was the nature of his son, and it would be useless to try to stop him.

Qing Shui was shocked out of his wits when he saw the flustered looking Qing You sprinting towards him. Wasn't Qing You supposed to be in bed, recovering from his injuries? How could he even sprint?

“Ai, Qing You, you should rest well since you are injured!” Qing Shui stated with a smile as he looked at his younger cousin.

Qing You shook his head, as he went straight to the point of his question.

“After I heard that Qing Shui ge trounced that Situ Bu Fan like a little puppy, I immediately felt better.” Qing You glanced at Qing Shui, as his eyes glittered with delight.

Qing Shui knew that Qing You, as the epitome of strength within the 3rd generation disciples, had always looked up to and respected those stronger than him. He was someone who possessed explosive strength, as evidenced by the choice of his weapons.

“Heh heh, I had long found his pretentious mug irritating. Luckily I had enough strength to smash him down the arena. Just imagine his earlier arrogance, and then getting beat down a few minutes later.” Qing Shui roared with laughter as he chatted with Qing You.

“Hehe!” A endearing voice full of laughter drifted over.

“How could the two of you debase someone behind his back?” Qing Yi had heard their conversation regarding Situ Bu Fan, and was suppressing her urge to openly laugh as she gently berated them.

“Mum!” , “Aunty!”

“Qing Shui, I passed the six other Hundred Year Fiery Power Fruit to your Grandpa. He was very happy when he saw the fruits, and told me that he would give you anything as compensation.” Qing Yi said with a smile, with radiance suffusing her complexion.

Qing Shui was momentarily stunned. He knew that Qing Luo had access to the treasure vault, located inside a secret chamber, which kept all the treasured items passed down from the earlier generations of the Qing Clan.

After Qing Shui recovered from his surprise, Qing Yi beckoned to both of them to follow her to meet Qing Luo. “Qing You, later after you meet your grandpa, remember to ask him for two of the fruits. Don’t worry I will help you persuade your grandpa.” Qing Yi said to Qing You as she pat his shoulder. “With aunty here, there would

surely be a share for you.”

“Thank you, Auntie!” Qing You was so excited that his whole face was flushed red. He had always been inclined to strength. Now that he knew the fruits would grant him an increase of 1,000 jin in strength, how could he not be passionate about it? If his strength increased by 1,000 jin, at the very least, he would not have lost so badly to Situ Bu Fan.

After they arrived at Qing Luo’s residence, they saw Qing Luo was relaxedly enjoying his day, watering the plants in his courtyard. His towering and rugged frame, seemed to give no indications on his age. He was above 100 years old! However, considering the lifespan of peak HouTian experts, he was only middle-aged. It was a pity that Qing Luo had always been cursed by loneliness. Ever since his wife had passed on, he had never remarried, and depended on himself to bring up his children. Now that all his grandchildren had grown up the 2nd generation members urged and supported him to get remarried. However, all matchmaking proposals were rejected by Qing Luo.

“Dad!”

“Grandpa!” Both Qing Shui and Qing You greeted Qing Luo

“Hahaha, excellent!” Qing Luo was in a very joyous mode, and everyone knew the reason behind it was Qing Shui. Most probably, after Situ Bu Fan’s arrogant actions, the Qing Clan would have more standing in the Hundred Miles City. In the future when the Qing Clan conducted their business in the Hundred Miles City, they wouldn’t be under such constant pressure.”

However, now it was different. Qing Shui had easily defeated one of the young masters of the four great clans of Hundred Miles City, and indirectly affected their pride. There was bound to be countless challengers waiting for him at Hundred Miles City, waiting to vent their anger.

“Qing Shui, since you have given the Hundred-Year fruits to us, I will let you choose any item you like from the Qing Clan’s treasury. After all, we can’t blindly accept your kindness without giving you something in compensation.” Qing Luo said.

It was Qing Shui’s first time coming into this chamber. The chamber was simple and unadorned, and only consisted of a bed, a bookshelf, and a table and set of chairs.

“Grandpa, what are you saying, we are all one family! Although the Hundred-Year fruits were valuable, the effects could not be stacked. It is only right for me to hand them over to you. After all, I’m a part of the Qing Clan!” Qing Shui said warmly, with hints of steadfastness in his voice. His grandpa had always doted on him. He could still remember back when he was young, and Qing Luo had went all the way to Hundred Miles City to buy the 100-year purple ginseng for his consumption.

Qing Luo was very happy, but despite this, he still wanted Qing Shui to make a request for an item saying that it was necessary, as it was a rule of the Qing Clan. Those who made contributions would be able to receive rewards.

Looking at how determined Qing Luo was, and the slight nod of Qing Yi, signaling her agreement, Qing Shui decided to try his

luck...

“Hmm, if that is so, could Grandpa give me a Crippling Divine Pill?”

AST: Chapter 46 – Circumstances of Qing Shui's Birth (1)

“Hmm, if that is so, could Grandpa give me a Crippling Divine Pill?”

Qing Shui's request had almost given Qing Luo a heart attack. Complex emotions surfaced in his eyes as he faced Qing Shui. “You should already know about the effects of the Crippling Divine Pill. The current you could be considered to have a bright and almost limitless potential, so there is no need for you to even think about this pill at all.”

“Yup, Shui`er, your grandpa is right. You must not be tempted by the sudden increase in strength and bury all of your future potential!” Qing Yi barely recovered from the shock of Qing Shui's request, as she hurriedly tried to persuade Qing Shui, hoping to change his mind. After all, it was her who told Qing Shui about the effects of the Crippling Divine Pill.

A bitterness arose in Qing Shui's heart. His own future potential was limitless, but the current him was still stuck at the damnable bottleneck, sorely unable to make a breakthrough! That step through the doorway of the 4th heavenly layer, had evaded him for six years... a whole six years !

“I understand, Grandpa, Mother, please rest assured, I will not do anything to damage my potential.” Qing Shui exhibited a reassuring smile, for only he alone understood the helplessness that he felt.

Hearing Qing Shui's constant reassurance, both Qing Luo and Qing Yi slightly relaxed, but had not given up on repeatedly reminding him about the harmful effects of the Crippling Divine Pill again and again.

Unknowingly, Qing Shui already stood at the pinnacle of the 3rd generation, and had become the dazzling star of the Qing Clan. Everyone with the exception of Qing Shui himself, was enamored of him and his future achievements. Qing Shui did not like to be out in the limelight, exposing his abilities so soon. After all, could his current abilities really be compared to the truly monstrous cultivators of the continent? It was just that Situ Bu Fan was seriously too annoying, and for the sake of the Qing Clan's future, he had no choice but to enter the arena. However, aside from this Qing Shui had another reason hidden deep within his heart.

“Because that damnable Situ Bu Fan is the fiancée of Shi Qing Zhuang! Just thinking about it makes me uncomfortable. If I'm uncomfortable, then of course I must let it all out, only then would I feel better!” Thinking of this, Qing Shui softly sighed. He did not know why exactly Shi Qing Zhuang kept appearing in his mind.

Qing Shui gently shook his head, trying to clear all the distracting thoughts. The thought of Situ Bu Fan tainting the ice cold beauty was enough to send his emotions spiralling out of control as blazing waves of fiery anger overtook him. Strength, and power. This were the only two things that mattered in the world of the nine continents. With sufficient strength, he could do as he wishes, and even snatch those who took his fancy.

As Qing Shui was lost in his thoughts, Qing Luo took out a sealed box and passed it over to Qing Shui. “Since you are so adamant about this, Grandpa shall grant your wish... but Qing Shui, you must promise me that you would never, ever, under any circumstances consume this pill. For if you do, any hopes of you reaching the Xiantian realm would vanish into the thin air just like a puff of smoke. Your mother and I are both looking forward to your future progression. Bear this in mind alright.”

Even at this moment, Qing Luo was still preaching to Qing Shui about the dangers of the Crippling Divine Pill. He feared that Qing Shui would feel that the realm of Xiantian was too difficult to reach. Also, if in the future there was any powers that provoked or humiliated him, Qing Shui may because of a moment of impulse, consume the crippling divine pill and thus, bury his potential.

After all, the coming of age ceremony had already concluded, and Qing Shui was no longer a boy, but officially considered an adult man. Qing Luo believed that he would be able to think things through and make the right decisions. No matter what, a man was entitled to a few secrets and as such, Qing Luo did not question Qing Shui on the reason behind him wanting the Crippling Divine Pill. “Sigh, if only I knew that he would make such a request...” Qing Luo shook his head. If he knew that Qing Shui wanted the Crippling Divine Pill, he would not have been so bold to suggest that Qing Shui could have any item he wanted in the Qing Clan’s treasury!

Qing Shui expressed his gratitude after receiving the sealed box. Then he noticed Qing You was red in the face, seemingly wanting to say something, but he had not spoken for fear of interrupting them earlier.

“Grandpa.....” After the word resounded out, there was no other sound for a long moment.

Qing Luo smiled, his favorite grandson was Qing You from when he was a child, thus how could he not know what Qing You was thinking about? Everytime he wanted something, Qing You exhibited this particular expression on his face. Qing Luo just received six 100-Year Fiery Power Fruits, and Qing You had that expression on his face. How could Qing Luo not put two and two together?

“Hahaha, kid, I know you want the 100-Year Fiery Power Fruit. Giving two to you is not out of the question, but you must promise me that you will strive and work hard. In addition, after increasing your strength, you cannot wantonly challenge others to show off your might. If you want to challenge someone, then challenge your brother Qing Shui.” After saying that, Qing Luo took out two of the 100-Year Fiery Power Fruits and tossed them over to Qing You.

Qing Shui and Qing Yi happily watched as the visibly excited Qing You kept the fruits. In this moment, one could see a mixture of surprise, joy, sincerity and gratitude towards Qing Yi from the eyes of Qing You.

Afterwards, the three of them departed and Qing You excitedly stated, “Aunty, Brother Qing Shui, I shall go now and increase my strength. I will meet you afterwards.” He didn’t even wait for their replies before turning around and dashing away at full speed.

Looking at the fervor displayed by Qing You, Qing Yi laughed and told Qing Shui, “Your little cousin Qing You won’t be able to sleep in peace for a few days. He is too excited.”

“Hehe, indeed. In this cultivation-oriented world, how would there be anything more joyful than a massive surge in strength?” Qing Shui smiled.

After returning back to their residence, Qing Shui decided to open the sealed box for a look at the infamous Crippling Divine Pill. Inside the box lay a small white bottle the size of a palm. Just as Qing Shui wanted to open it, he was stopped by Qing Yi.

“Do not recklessly open it Shui`er, or the efficaciousness of the pill would be lost after the time it takes to brew a cup of tea.”

Qing Shui stopped his actions, “Hmm, is just taking a look forbidden?” Qing Shui really wanted to know how this infamous pill looked like.

“No.” Qing Yi said, certainty apparent in her tone.

Ah forget it, since he was unable to peer at the pill, he might as well just pack it up. Today was the 15th day of the month. It was the date for the Lantern Festival in his previous world. Games such as guessing the lantern riddles were not popular in the world of the nine continents, but the whole village was still extremely lively, bustling with noise and excitement. People were everywhere, it was as if everyone who lived in the Qing Village, were out in the streets strolling about, enjoying the festive atmosphere of the

Lantern Festival Day.

“Mother, it is so lively out there, let us not remain cooped up in here.” Qing Shui wanted to make good use of his time and enjoy the festive mood together with Qing Yi. After all, such opportunities were rare for the both of them.

“Okay!” Qing Yi happily agreed.

In the end, like during the new year, both Qing Shui and Qing Yi decided to go to the Town of the Setting Phoenix. The only difference this time around was that everyone was staring at Qing Shui, and even quite a few others greeted him!

Especially for those of the younger age groups. Strength in this world, was akin to riches in his previous world in terms of status. Qing Shui was considered to be “extremely wealthy” in the eyes of these youths.

What made Qing Shui smile wryly, was that there was plenty of good looking beauties, who out of their own volition, went forward to introduce themselves to Qing Shui, leaving him flustered and looking for places to hide. This could not be blamed on him as it was his first experience in both of his lifetimes to have beautiful girls asking him out.

“Qing Shui, look, there is a ravishing beauty right there, stealing glances at you.” Qing Yi happily teased Qing Shui as she pointed her finger off in a certain direction.

After Qing Shui followed the finger, his gaze landed on a five to six year old little girl, whose exquisite features seemed to be carved from jade, as beautiful as a doll. The little girl was currently curiously staring at Qing Shui.

“Oh, a beauty indeed, but only after another 20 years.” Qing Shui laughed, as he gently smiled at the little girl. (TL: the pedo reference is strong in this one.)

When they returned back to the Qing Clan, it was already approaching dusk. The sun slowly set, as it dyed the whole land with a dull reddish color. Both mother and son were chatting as they sat on some chairs placed in their courtyard.

After some moments, Qing Shui decided that it was time to get the answers Qing Yi promised him earlier.

“Mother, you once promised this to me. Can you tell me matters of the past now? Especially, about my father?” Qing Shui usually gentle tone of voice hardened perceptibly into something steel-like despite him trying to mask it.

AST: Chapter 47 – Circumstances of Qing Shui's Birth (2)

“Mother, you once promised this to me. Can you tell me matters of the past now? Especially, about my father?” Qing Shui usually gentle tone of voice hardened perceptibly into something steel-like despite him trying to mask it.

Shudders shook Qing Yi's body as bitterness arose in her heart as she sighed to herself, “Whatever will be, will be.”

Looking at Qing Shui, Qing Yi gradually calmed down. However, what she didn't expect was that Qing Shui already had a rough understanding of about 70-80% regarding the whole situation.

“ Qing Shui, you are already an adult, even if you didn't ask me, I still would have found a chance to tell you.” Qing Yi sighed.

Qing Yi hesitated for a while and said, “Yan Zhong Yue, remember this name well, for it is the name of your father. Zhong Yue is a descendant of the Yan Clan from the Yan Jiang Country. The Yan Clan is considered a reclusive clan, one of the ultimate existences in the entire Yan Jiang Country, with deeply established roots and connections of more than a 1,000 years. The authority of the Yan Clan is so overwhelming that they could wipe out a clan directly with the ease of a flick of their finger, or a stomp of their foot on the ground.

Losing herself in her memories, Qing Yi softly continued.

“Your father possessed a direct bloodline and was one of the leaders in his generation.” After speaking, Qing Yi smiled gently at Qing Shui, and continued, “If you see him, you would definitely recognize him, for you could be considered a spitting image of him.”

“That year, we met by chance when he came to the western mountainous regions near our Qing Clan for cultivation. Do you believe in love at first sight? Sigh, that was what happened to us. However, elders from his clan strongly forbade us being together, saying that I was not worthy of his love, let alone being a part of the illustrious Yan Clan. Later on, your father defied them, left the Yan Jiang Country and willingly relocated here in order to marry me.”

“Two years later, we had a daughter.” Pausing momentarily to let the revelation sink in before she continued “That was your elder sister... However, the brief moment of happiness did not last, as soon after, the members of the Yan Clan found us. Your elder sister was only about 5 months old then, yet the elders of the Yan Clan were intent on tearing our family apart. They wanted Zhong Yue to leave with them as there was already another marriage arranged with the eldest daughter from the Xiao Clan.

“The authority of the Xiao Clan in Yan Jiang country was only preceded by that of the Yan Clan. The eldest daughter from the Xiao Clan had an extremely overbearing personality, and had long admired your father ever since they were young. More than just admire, it could almost be called an obsession. Thinking to forge an alliance through marriage, the Yan Clan naturally would not be opposed to it. After all, when two of the most powerful clan in the

Yan Jiang country combined their might, even if there were disagreements with the other large clans, there was nothing that could overcome their joint alliance. Because of that, from their viewpoint of the greater picture, the Yan Clan decided to sacrifice the love between me and your father... To the Yan Clan, those who could not bring them any benefits at best could only be used as pawns and then discarded after.” Qing Yi choked back a sob as she continued.

“Your father did not agree, but how could the Yan Clan give up so easily? Using the destruction of the entire Qing Village as a threat, including my life, your father could only obediently submit in the end. But that was not the end of the matter. For insurance, they even took my baby daughter with them, and only left a single sentence behind before they left. “If you ever venture a single step into the Yan Clan, we would make your daughter suffer a fate worst than death.”

“With that warning, they succeeded in what they set out to do. They broke apart our family, and to ensure the safety of your sister, neither me nor your father have ever attempted to meet all this years.”

“Just when I truly felt that all hope in the world was wiped out, at the peak of depression and almost succumbing to insanity, it was then I felt the stirring of life in my womb... I was pregnant with you Shui`er... You are my hope and salvation, bringing me out from the darkness and back into the light. “

“Shui`er, my deepest wish is to visit the Yan Clan, but I do not want to go there snivelling, like a beggar. I want to visit there with

exaltation and pride, to see my daughter again. All these years... I don't even know how she fared, don't even know if there was anyone there to love her." After this, Qing Yi could no longer control her emotions, tears freely cascaded down her face as she buried her head in Qing Shui's shoulder, trembling with each breath.

Qing Shui let out a breath that he didn't even realize he was holding. It turns out that his earlier assumptions were far from the truth. Never would he have imagined that it was the elders of the Yan clan had utilized such despicable means to force them apart, and to think that he even had a elder sister. He always thought that it was his father who had willingly abandoned them.

Embracing Qing Yi, he had unshed tears in his eyes. How much had Qing Yi suffered, all the mental torture, and yet she had to bear it alone as a lone woman.

"Don't worry mother, what they did to you, I will have them pay it back in full." Qing Shui stated quietly, like the calm before a storm.

That steel-like tone of voice was filled with certainty. The pressure that Qing Shui was emanating now was extremely oppressing. Qing Yi could clearly feel the vengeance in his heart.

"Qing Shui, don't take it seriously. All I want is for you to live your life out in peace and happiness, not in vengeance. Please be happy Shui`er, I don't want to see you embark on a path of no return, you have no idea the power the Yan Clan wields. The reason mother is telling you all of this is that this are the things

you ought to know. But if you really went for revenge and something did happen to you, I don't know how I would live on. After all, all these things happened so long ago in the past, the scar on my heart had already numbed” Qing Yi attempted a weak smile as she looked at Qing Shui.

Despite this, from the words earlier still resonated within him. “My deepest wish is to visit the Yan Clan, in exaltation and pride, looking for my daughter.” Qing Shui knew that Qing Yi would not give up so easily.

He could be sure that Qing Yi would definitely plan a visit to the Yan Clan. Even if it meant her death, she would still choose to go, even if she had to go there begging, she would still choose to go unhesitantly, all because of her very own daughter!

“Mother, don't you worry, I would never boast, and never lie to you. Five years. Give me five years, I will trample upon the entire Yan Clan. Definitely. Believe in me. Just five years is all I ask for. In these five years, I want you to live happily and banish the thoughts of visiting the Yan Clan. If you really did go and something happened to you, I will annihilate each and everyone with the surname of Yan. Pull them out by their roots and eradicate any traces of their existence. I'm a man of my words.” Qing Shui was worried and as such, he had no choice but to stall for time. Only after he got stronger, would he be able to achieve his promises.

Qing Yi's senses were reeling from Qing Shui's words. When he had said that if anything happened to her, he would pull down the Yan Clan by their roots and completely massacre the whole of Yan

Clan, she actually found herself believing his words. She unconsciously felt that Qing Shui would have the strength to do so in the future, but was unable to say why this was so.

After consoling Qing Yi, Qing Yi had visibly calmed down, but there was a blazing fire lit in her heart. Five years, Qing Shui told her to give him five years, Could they really visit the Yan Clan with their heads held high in five years?

Initially after Qing Shui was born, Qing Yi had fantasized that when he grew up and had some mastery in his cultivation, Qing Shui would be able to return to the Yan Clan to claim back his heritage and ancestry. But who knew that Qing Shui was born with a sickly constitution and was unable to make the slightest progress in cultivation?

It was all wishful thinking on her part as soon after, she realized that how could the Yan Clan care for a bastard child with no talent in cultivation? There was plenty of other geniuses in the Yan Clan after all. It was also extremely common for the descendants of Yan Clan to fling with other women, leaving behind bastards, and not to mention that relations in such a huge clan would obviously be weak and strained, everything was based on pragmatism and benefits.

It was then, Qing Yi had decided that she just wanted Qing Shui to lead a peaceful life inside the Qing Village. After he had grown up and started his own family, then she would depart alone to the Yan Clan to seek news about her daughter, and to see the person that she had always loved.

Indeed, Qing Shui was partially right about some of the things. From this, he could conclude that it was lucky he had not chosen to give in to depression back then.

Everytime he saw the hopeless expression in Qing Yi's eyes, Qing Shui could feel waves of needle-sharp pain assailing his heart. The heavens were fair, they had saw fit to grant him affinity with the Yin-Yang Pendant, in return, he would cultivate with his life at stake, in the hopes of clashing with the Yan Clan one day.

In reality, this goal was set by Qing Shui long ago, only now after hearing the full story, did he affirm his decision and continue looking forward. Qing Shui understood that he must not let hatred cloud his mind or heart. He knew that the two destructive emotions would only delay him from his objectives.

“Mother, everything will get better, don't worry anymore. In the future, just leave these matters to me. One day, I so swear, I will let everyone in this world know of my name, and that you are my mother.”

AST: Chapter 48 – Lingerin Charm

Qing Shui had always wanted Qing Yi to unleash all her pent-up sadness and frustrations by venting out all her innermost thoughts. Only by doing that would Qing Yi be able to relax. For so many years, Qing Yi had been bearing this pain all alone, sighing helplessly every time her thoughts turned to this. A burden shared was a burden halved. Now, she would no longer have to bear this burden alone. Qing Shui was determined to be part of it, and had made a promise to Qing Yi that he would go with her to the Yan Clan in five years time.

After their conversation, Qing Shui recorded the essence of the Solitary Rapid Fist onto a piece of paper, including a diagram of the all of the meridian and acupoint positions of the human body on a paper. After all, the Solitary Rapid Fist only had a single stance. As to what degree the rest of the Qing Clan members could master the fist technique would depend on their own level of comprehension.

During this period of time, after Lan Yan`er recovered, she immediately issued a challenge to Qing Bei, wanting to wash off the shame and humiliation she had suffered at the competition. However, because of her pride, she did not come personally to issue the challenge, instead sending her servants in her place.

To Qing Shui, Qing Bei was a little devil, and beneath that vivacious exterior lay a mind full of mischievous ideas. In the end, Lan Yan`er had no choice but to come personally, because no matter how Lan Yan`er provoked or challenged Qing Bei, she would just ignore it. She would only leaving a single reply, “anyway, your loss was visibly witnessed by everyone, so you can

say whatever you want as long as the people can believe it.” Lan Yan`er was infuriated to the point of puking blood when she heard that. With no other resolution, she could only counter by saying, ”good, very good... Make sure to watch out next time.”

“Next time? What next time? I would still have you flat on the ground every time we fight.” Qing Bei ruthlessly countered, without caring about shaming Lan Yan`er in public. Qing Shui could almost see the devilish horns growing out of Qing Bei’s head, as he silently smiled to himself.

Regarding the Solitary Rapid Fist technique which Qing Shui passed down, the 3rd generation clan members were all exceptionally happy about it. They would often spar with each other using the fist technique, and would compete to see who could unleash the most stances. Everyone knew that while the Solitary Rapid Fist technique only consisted only of a single stance, the higher your comprehension rose, the more stances would you be able to derive from the original stance. Thus, everyone was busily training in it, honing their arms’ agility and flexibility, and memorizing the positions of the vital acupoints in the human body.

The atmosphere between the 3rd generation members was extremely competitive. Ever since Lan Yan`er discovered that the battle technique Qing Bei had used to defeat her had originated from Qing Shui, she started to actively hate Qing Shui as well. Every time they met, she would glare hatefully at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui who had matured long ago, refused to stoop to the level of Lan Yan`er. He only felt that Lan Yan`er was incredibly

childish, almost to the extent of her reminding him of Situ Bu Fan.

Qing Shui still assiduously cultivated daily. Aside from cultivating during the day, he would enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal every night. Despite this, there were still no signs of him breaking through to the 49th cycle of circulated qi. The recent repeated failures made Qing Shui felt a never before sense of crushing defeat.

Looking at the branches of the Energy Enhancing Tree, that had been plucked clean by Qing Shui earlier, remnants of fruit-like things had already begun growing. However, Qing Shui knew that for them to fully mature, it would require a year of time to pass outside of the realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui planned to depart for Hundred Miles City after a few more days. After that, he planned to purchase common-grade seedlings, and cultivate them inside the spatial realm. “Common-grade so what? He could still make a tidy profit if he sold them as 100-year herbs a year later. With money, he could naturally buy higher grades seedlings, and could then cultivate them for his own usage.”

Qing Shui placed a lot of his hopes on spiritual herbs, he wished to master the art of concocting pills and become an alchemist. Only then, with all the knowledge of the otherworldly pill formulas unlocked in his mind, would he have an increased chance compared to others to enter the Xiantian Realm. That year, when the elders from the Yan Clan forcibly broke apart Qing Yi and Yan Zhong Yue, Qing Yi mentioned a Yan Clan elder with strength in the Xiantian realm could tear apart the entire Qing Village with a

flick of his finger. Everything depended on the level of one's power!

“Xiantian, was the vital boundary in the myriad realms of cultivation. A cultivator who had taken that initial step into the Xiantian Realm could be considered to have ascended into the heavens. However, for every cultivator which succeeded in entering the doorway of the Xiantian Realm, there were countless millions of others stuck outside of it.”

Thinking of the Crippling Divine Pill he possessed, Qing Shui was sorely tempted to consume it so as to aid him in breaking past the 4th heavenly layer. However, he would not lightly take the risk, he understood that once he did so, the probability of him ever entering Xiantian realm would be infinitely close to zero, and he would never be able to take revenge for Qing Yi in his lifetime.

Without any other solutions, Qing Shui could only grit his teeth and continue cultivating assiduously in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He had a very strong feeling that the moment when he broke through to the 49th cycle of circulated Qi, it would be the moment he stepped into the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

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Today, there was a visitor to Qing Clan which filled Qing Shui with much excitement. That person was the Feng Clan judge from the annual competition. It was that charming lady that he had the hots for! Qing Shui breathed deeply, this was what we call a matured lady, as ripe as a peach, with her curvaceous figure

swaying about as if she was a temptress, especially those gigantic twin peaks bobbing about in front of her chest. The body-hugging robe she wore was so tight that one would have expected her twin peaks would burst out of it at any moment. Qing Shui salivated at the thought.

Slender and willowy waist, a full round-shaped bottom, soft and creamy skin, and that pair of bewitching eyes. All of these factors combined caused Qing Shui to be unable to guess at the actual age of the Feng Clan lady.

When she glanced at Qing Shui, as her beautiful eyes swept past, in that instant, Qing Shui could see how bewitching her eyes were. They seemed to be filled with a certain look of mistiness combined with a hint of enrapture that was capable of stirring the heartstrings of all but the strongest-willed men.

“Hmm, mature ladies, are indeed my favourite!” Qing Shui fantasized excitedly.

“Qing Shui right? As expected, it is difficult even for me to see through your true strength level.” Her lovely voice was extremely pleasing to his ear. Just hearing the words she spoke gave rise to a comfortable feeling in his heart.

“Yup, I’m Qing Shui! You are?” Qing Shui decided to ask directly.

(TL Note: *You are, the word “You – 您” used was a word slightly different from the normal you. It is usually used by juniors when addressing their elders.”

“This one’s name is Feng Wuxi, from the Feng Clan, but you can call me Auntie Xi!” At this moment, the voice of Qing Luo, suffused with laughter, drifted over.

“Auntie Xi, nice to meet you!” Qing Shui obediently replied.

“Ah, Elder Qing Luo is indeed fortunate, to think that a young hero has appeared in the 3rd generation of your Qing Clan. It really engenders envy from the everyone else!”, Feng Wuxi laughed, praising the two of them with a single sentence.

Qing Luo invited Feng Wuxi into their living room, and suddenly along the way, Feng Wuxi extended her hand to grab Qing Shui’s hand and pull him along. Shocked by the sudden movement, Qing Shui could not even react as his mind went numb, blindly following as Feng Wuxi pulled him along. He did not know that Feng Wuxi found him extremely adorable, as she could see the signs of nervousness and excitement mingling on his now beet-red face.

Qing Shui could feel that the hands of Feng Wuxi were smooth and silky to the touch. Blood rushed to his head as he stole a glance at Feng Wuxi, it appeared that she was just nonchalantly leading the way.

“Urghh, She only treats me as a child!”

Qing Shui clicked his tongue being slightly annoyed, and enlarged his nostrils to breathe in the fragrance emitted by Feng

Wuxi, as his heart thumped faster. Such a rare specimen of a mature woman, I wonder who she sleeps with at night.

Qing Shui felt that he was extremely evil, his mind was filled with scenes of the “Artistic Films” he watched back in his previous life. He was fantasizing about him doing it with Feng Wuxi, being the stars of the videos, trying out all the positions...

Only after they had entered the living room, did Qing Shui awaken from his fantasies.

“What a sin!” Qing Shui was caught between a rock and a hard place and was silently berating himself for his earlier thoughts.

“I’m here to discuss the matters between my clan’s Yue Ru [1] and your Qing Zi. The two of them are quite compatible with each other, so I wish to arrange a marriage between them, what do you think?”

Qing Shui knew that Yue Ru was the one who fought with Qing Zi during the annual competition. He rubbed his nose as he thought “To think that they would be married soon after today.”

[1] previously her name in the earlier annual competition was Feng Yan`fei, I think the author forgotten lol. Well whatever, her name is Feng Yue Ru now.

AST: Chapter 49 – The Mysterious Feng Wu Xi

In reality, back during the annual competition the members of the audience had taken note of the mutual attraction between Feng Yue Ru and Qing Zi, especially the two sharp-eyed leaders of both clans.

After the annual competition concluded, true to her words, Feng Yue Ru sought out Qing Zi under the pretext of exchanging pointers. The two of them hit off very well, and got along like a house on fire. Interactions between both of them started to get more and more frequent, and from the heated gazes they exchanged, one could see that the two younglings had already fallen into the raging river of love.

Especially, after the Feng Clan saw Qing Shui's performance at the annual competition, they had decisively agreed to improve their relations with the Qing Clan through a marriage proposal.

Thus, Feng Wuxi had personally made a trip, hoping to settle the marriage engagement as soon as possible!

“Excellent, Excellent, this matter is concluded. Tomorrow I shall get Qing Jiang to make a trip personally down to the Feng Clan and deliver the betrothal gifts, and following that we will choose an auspicious date for the two lovebirds to get married.” Qing Luo laughed uproariously. It could be seen that he was in an extremely good mood.

“Hahaha, Elder Qing Luo is indeed a straightforward man. I think the two young lovebirds would be tremendously pleased to hear of this.” Feng Wuxi lightly smiled, and it was only now that she had stopped clutching Qing Shui’s hand.

“Ah Grandpa, brother Qing Zi is getting married?” Qing Shui appeared startled, but hints of excitement could be heard in his voice.

“Yup! A grown up man and woman ought to get married. Your brother Qing Zi is already 26, and his talent on the path of cultivation could at most be considered slightly above average. It is time for him to set up a family and help out with the clan’s businesses.” Qing Luo replied with a smile; no hints of regret had appeared in his voice.

“Keke, Qing Shui, are you jealous that your brother Qing Zi is getting married? Do you want Auntie Xi to introduce to some lovely females that I am acquainted with? I truly do not know which of these ladies would have the luck to be able to marry to you.” Feng Wuxi gently teased Qing Shui.

How could old man Qing Luo not see through Feng Wuxi’s intentions? It was normal for humans to show favoritism. Feng Wuxi was someone who had a clear mind and kind heart with an extremely high level of foresight. He knew that she would not take advantage of Qing Shui.

Qing Luo also held some hints of admirations for this young leader of the Feng Clan. Her cultivation level could be considered within the top three in the entire Qing Village. Qing Luo knew that

if it were not for the accident that occurred in the past, Feng Wuxi's cultivation level would not be merely at this level and could even be considered a phoenix soaring through the nine heavens.

After Qing Shui heard Feng Wuxi speaking of marriage, he shook his head inwardly. As long as the matter with the Yan Clan was not settled, he could not even begin to consider the possibility of marriage. Qing Shui now only wanted to pursue the path to power, so he had no desire to court any woman.

“Auntie Xi, I’m still young, so I will temporarily shelf the idea.” Qing Shui replied, giggling happily. In his heart, even Qing Shui himself was disgusted by the actions he was doing. “Ahh, if I was still in my previous life, I would surely get the best actor award.”

Indeed, after he arrived in this world, his personality has changed. Appearing cool and collected on the exterior, leaving a good impression to others and only displaying his true self when no one was around. For example, cussing and swearing when things went wrong could only be done in private. When the annual competition ended, the good impression they had of him, had only magnified into adoration. Qing Shui became the model of excellence for the younger generations to follow.

“Keke, no need to hurry.” Feng Wuxi smiled, however Qing Shui could observe a slight hint of craftiness within that smile of hers. Shaking his head, he thought that he had hallucinated, but after blinking his eyes, he realized that there was no mistake. Such an expression on the face of this mature woman was so seductive and filled with attraction.

Feng Wuxi promptly left soon after she finished discussion of the marriage engagement. However, before she left, she extended an invitation to Qing Shui, asking him to visit the Feng Clan more often. After all, the two clans were soon to be interrelated.

“Qing Shui, this particular woman eats people up, even swallowing their skeletons, you’d best be careful. Were it not for that accident, how would she be here.” Qing Luo mysteriously warned him before lapsing into silence.

Qing Shui felt that his Grandpa was trying to say something in between the lines, but looking at the expression of Qing Luo, Qing Shui knew that his Grandpa had no intention to elaborate on it. He only said so much in an attempt to warn him. Now that Qing Shui has been warned, there was no need for Qing Luo to continue elaborating.

For the next few days, Qing Shui joined the rest of the 3rd generation Clan members to cultivate. Compared to the past, there were many disciples who had come forward to engage with Qing Shui, in the hopes that he would give them some pointers.

After the new year, Qing Shui had decided to follow Qing Yi to help her out in her business over at Hundred Miles City. Initially, all of the Qing Clan elders had been shocked by his request. However, seeing how determined Qing Shui was, along with the many smooth lies prepared by Qing Shui, in the end they were all swayed by his arguments and had no choice but to acquiesce to his wishes.

Other than their 3rd uncle and his wife, who stayed over at

Hundred Miles City in celebration for the new year, Qing Yi would be the one in charge to escort Qing Zi, Qing Shan, Qing Shi and Qing Shui to Hundred Miles City.

Both Qing You and Qing Hu wanted to go as well, but were denied their requests by Qing Luo, who told them to stop their nonsense and to treat this seriously. Qing Luo silently sighed to himself, “Qing Shui has already disrupted the original rules of the Qing Clan. This trouble was caused by his strength.” Afterwards, Qing Luo could only laugh along.

The travellers hopped into a carriage which was pulled by two huge horses. Seeing the two horses caused Qing Shui to reminisce about the emberlion steed of Shi Qing Zhuang. However, following that line of thought, he was reminded involuntarily of that pretentious prick – Situ Bu Fan.

There was only a single route to travel if one wanted to go to Hundred Miles City. The width of the road was just enough for two carriages to traverse through. The terrain of the path was entirely mountainous, which made it difficult for smooth travel. Thus, travellers would need about four hours before they could arrive at their destination.

The scenery though not filled with visions of lush forests and open seas, were nevertheless scenic. There were many different types and shapes of fascinating rocks and stones along the path, which drew the interest of Qing Shui. “When I’m stronger in the future, I must leave my footprints on all the continents of this world.”

Traversing on the road, especially sitting in a carriage, can be quite uninteresting and boring. Conversations between them soon started as a means to pass the time, and soon everyone was familiar with each other.

Not only were they from the same clan, they were direct relatives too. As such, their relationship got better and better after they were more familiar with each other.

Especially for Qing Shi, who was the son of Qing He and had circumstances similar to that of Qing Shui. He got along very well with Qing Shui. Qing Shi was exceedingly passionate for cultivation, but his talent was limited, and as such he had only broken through to the 4th grade of the Blue Lotus Art. Not to mention, their ages were close to each other. Qing Shui was only about a month older than him. Seeing how Qing Shui managed to break his own limits and arrived at his current strength today, Qing Shi quickly got well acquainted with Qing Shui, in the hopes that he could pick up some tips and pointers from him.

Qing Shui admired the personality of Qing Shi very much. Here is one who was the mirror image of himself, sharing the same fate. Qing Shui could not help thinking that this would be his destiny too, if not for some fortuitous encounters that happened.

Despite putting expending so much effort, because of his lack of talent, Qing Shi was doomed not to be able progress far on the path of cultivation. However, he never gave up, nor said a word in complaint; forging on ahead with confidence.

“We will arrive at Hundred Miles City shortly, and after that I

will bring all of you to the “Yu He” Inn to enjoy the great food there!”

AST: Chapter 50 – The Prosperous Hundred Miles City

“We will arrive at Hundred Miles City shortly, and after that I will bring all of you to the “Yu He Inn” to enjoy the great food there!”

Looking at how happy Qing Yi was, Qing Shui concluded that the “Yu He Inn” should be one of the top grade inns of Hundred Miles City.

Soon, they could see the huge city walls of Hundred Miles City looming in their sight. When the horse carriage stopped at the City Entrance, Qing Shui could not compare the sight in front of his eyes to the ones in the period dramas he had watched in his previous life.

The City Walls were 15m high, and about 30m thick. Qing Shui exclaimed in wonder as he determined the toughness of the walls. All the walls were carved from huge slabs of Lazurite Stones, and every slab weighed at least a few thousand jin. However, what truly amazed Qing Shui was that he could find no cracks when he examined the city walls!

“Truly, this is the skill of both a master architect and master constructor!” Hidden in the depths of his mind, there too was information regarding the arts and skills of architects and construction. It was just that he had yet to unlock them.

Not only were the city walls solid and tall, the enormous black

metallic gates looked incomparably thick and heavy, emitting a slight air of oppression.

“That steel gate would require the strength of at least 20 humans to open it.” Qing Yi added in explanation as she saw Qing Shui looking at the gate.

Standing on both sides of the entrance were 30 guards standing at attention. They wore yellow martial guardsmen uniforms, wielding sharp swords in their hands.

There were two guards that were responsible for checking the belongings of those entering and exiting the city, and every visitor who wanted to gain entry would have to pay a toll of 1 copper coin! For those who rode on a horse carriage, they had to pay double, while merchants with caravans had to pay up to four times the price!

Very quickly, it was the turn for the Qing Clan’s carriage to pay the toll fee. Much to Qing Shui’s surprise, the two guardsmen merely waved them in as they stepped aside, allowing the carriage to gain entry to the city free of charge. “Mother, why don’t we need to pay the toll fee?”

Qing Yi lightly smiled, “Although we are not an extremely powerful clan, we still have some slight fame and prestige over here in the Hundred Miles City. After all, they would have to give us some face due to your Grandpa being at the peak of Houtian Realm. Also your second uncle too, who had recently broken through to the 10th Grade of Martial Commander.”

After entering the city, Qing Shui's eyes began to shine with excitement. The spacious streets were about 50+ meters wide, and the roads were all paved with marble. It was so vast that Qing Shui couldn't see the end of the street with a single glance.

To think that Hundred Miles City could be prosperous to this extent. Just building the city walls, as well as the marbled streets would need to expend an untold amount of wealth and manpower. The shops and inns on the streets were neither simple nor unsophisticated, they all looked extremely affluent.

Merchant shops littered both sides of the streets as the crowd gave rise to a bustling atmosphere. The streets were extremely spacious; other than horse carriages, there were also other exotic looking ferocious beasts pulling on merchant carts.

Wondrous sights in every direction left Qing Shui captivated. He was focusing his attention everywhere, as if loathe to miss anything of interest. Randomly, he focused his attention onto a strange looking beast that was pulling a carriage.

“Woah woah, this big fellow, what is he? How is he so enormous?” Qing Shui pointed to a red-colored beast that was roughly comparable the total mass of five bulls.

“This is a fire bull. Don't be fooled by its humongous size, as it actually has a gentle personality. Although it's speed could only be considered average, it's strength and endurance level are extraordinary, so fire bulls are usually the choice of most people

when it comes to selecting beasts of burden.” Qing Yi smiled as she saw Qing Shui’s curiosity as she explained the details to him.

The horse carriage the Qing Clan was in, proceeded onwards till they arrived at an even more luxurious street. Qing Shui felt that this place was the focal point of Hundred Miles City. There were many more people, residences and shops when compared to the street he was at earlier. Of course, they followed the same layout. Pedestrians had to walk close to both sides of the street while the central lane was for horse carriages, or those who mounted steeds or beasts.

The carriage stopped in front of a huge building. Curiously, Qing Shui looked around and saw four big words written on a plaque hanging near the doorway: “Qing Clan Medicinal Business”. So this place was the location of their very own family business!

The building was five stories high, and it possessed neither grace nor beauty. When looking upon it, one could only feel a dreary, dull feeling emitting from it.

“Let us go and take a look, since this will be our residence during the time we are here.”

Qing Shui, Qing Shan and Qing Shi followed Qing Yi to a building nearby, the moment they entered, Qing Shui’s eyes started sparkling. What a spacious field, the length and breadth should be at least 100m or more. To think that our Qing Clan was rich enough to own such a big plot of land in the Hundred Miles City, seems that we do have some status here after all.

Opposite the plot of land, there was a garden about 200m in length and breadth, which was surrounded by a low wall of stone.

Qing Shui wandered into the garden and discovered that this was the place used for planting of the medicinal herbs. Upon discovering that there were a plethora of herbs being planted here, a huge smile appeared on his face.

What made him so excited was not the number of herbs that they were cultivating, but it was the many different varieties that they had here! 8-Immortal Grass, 8-Immortal Flower, Night's Fragrance, Great Earth Root, Goat-Horned Ginseng, Violet Hibiscus...

This garden which belonged to the Qing Clan was called the Hundred Medicine Garden, which Qing Shui noticed as he saw the name of the garden written near the entrance.

Initially, Qing Shui planned to buy some herbal seedlings, and it seemed that now there was no need for him to be so troubled over it, considering the many different varieties of medicinal herbs in the Hundred Medicinal garden. The smile on his face got wider and wider. Seems like the plot of land in his realm of the Violet Jade Immortal would no longer be so bare and empty.

There were two youths that were currently busy working inside the Hundred Medicinal Garden. They were digging holes, planting crops and weeding out various bad plants. Qing Shui was here to look for people of the Qing Clan, and not these ordinary workers.

Only now did he realize that there were such a small number of Qing Clan members working with Qing Yi regarding this medicinal business. There was a storage room for storing all the harvested herbs, but it seems that the Qing Clan Medicinal Business was targeting the common-grade herbs market.

“Qing Shui!”

Hearing someone call out his name, Qing Shui turned his head and realized that it was his 3rd uncle, Qing Hu! [1]

“3rd uncle, this place is so good! It is much more prosperous compared to our Qing Village.” Qing Shui laughed as he walk towards his 3rd uncle.

AST: Chapter 51 – The Woman Named Yu He

“Did you really defeat Situ Bu Fan?”

“Third Uncle, whom did you hear it from?” By Qing Shui’s estimation, his 3rd uncle shouldn’t have known about this matter.

“This matter was already made known to the larger clans residing in the Hundred Miles City. Thus, many of those self-proclaimed geniuses of the younger generations want to spar against you.”

Qing Shui lightly laughed, just the younger generations? They do not have the qualifications to make him regard them seriously. Of course, there may be those hidden within the younger generation of “geniuses” who also had the luck to meet with fortuitous events, and gain perverse strength from those encounters. However, such cases were far and few between.

“Do you believe it, 3rd uncle?” Qing Shui laughingly asked, Qing Shui knew that his 3rd uncle was even more of a blockhead than Qing Zi. 3rd Uncle Qing Hu was straight forward to a fault. His character could be aptly described with but a single word: Honesty.

“Seriously speaking, I do not know if I should believe it or not. However, after hearing that bunch of rich young masters who were furiously scolded Situ Bu Fan, calling him a pig head that has lost all the face and pride of their Hundred Miles City, I had no choice but to believe that it’s real.” While speaking, Qing Hu had been observing Qing Shui. Something was different with Qing

Shui, but he could not put his hand onto what was it, it seemed like... This quiet and unassuming nephew of his was suddenly like a totally different person, brimming with confidence.

“Hehe, simply because I have more brute strength, thus I accidentally crushed that pig head till the point of unconsciousness.” Qing Shui, in the eyes of the Qing Clan elders, had always been an honest and sensible child, but the words that just came out of his mouth was much easier said than done...

Qing Hu’s mouth slightly twitched, but he did not say anything as a radiant smile appeared on his face. “Let’s go, 3rd uncle knew that you all would be here today, and has already made the reservations at Yu He Inn. Let us go there and enjoy a scrumptious meal for lunch today.”

There were only three to five members of Qing Clan working in the Qing Clan’s Medicinal Store. The rest were all hired labor who had almost all gone on break because of the new year celebrations. Usually, from the Qing Clan there was only Qing Hu and his wife, as well as Qing Yi... Now, there were a total of six people. In addition to the three others from the elder generation, there was also Qing Shui, Qing Shan and Qing Shi.

Qing Shi was the son of Qing Hu, and now that Qing Hu and his wife saw that their son had arrived at Hundred Miles City, they did not know if they should be happy or sad. Coming here, to Hundred Miles City to help out in the business meant that your talent in cultivation was limited, but on the other hand being able to see their son daily was pretty good too.

The Yu He Inn was located on the same luxurious street in Hundred Miles City, and as such, there was only a short distance that needed to be travelled when they embarked from the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store to the Inn. Hence, instead of taking the horse carriages, the six of them decided to travel on foot. This suited Qing Shui's intentions perfectly, because other than him wanting to see all the interesting things displayed out in the streets, he also wanted to take the chance to observe the pretty ladies from Hundred Miles City too.

On their way to the Yu He Inn, Qing Shui realized that contrary to popular belief, despite being in the prosperous Hundred Miles City, beautiful ladies were not a dime a dozen. It was just that the ladies in the city paid attention to their state of dress, and used their fashion sense to fully display the contours and outlines of their graceful bodies.

“Hahaha, Qing Shui is really an adult now, look at him secretly observing the pretty ladies.” Qing Hu's wife, Yuan Ying involuntarily broke out into a smile as she caught Qing Shui's turning his head in the direction of a well-endowed lady.

“Aunty, beautiful things are there to be admired. I'm just a young man seeking relaxation in beauty.” Qing Shui replied, in a seemingly self-righteous manner.

“Oh, you... This little brat is really interesting. To think that you could come up with such a reason for seeing beautiful girls.”

Turning his head in the direction of the voice, Qing Shui discovered a young woman looking at him. Her buxom was full,

yet not overwhelmingly large. Her legs were akin to the point of perfection, long with the bones in a straight line from thigh to her slim ankle. The outline of her legs curving in and out at key points, while her slender waist could be akin to that of a water snake, lithe and graceful. Her fair and slender neck was extremely sexy, and her fashion sense was neat and elegant. She had a charming, misty look in her black eyes, a nose akin to a jade and a little mouth adorned with full red lips that were slightly curled upwards.

“Little fellow, I wonder if I possess the qualifications to make you feast your eyes on me.” The young lady flirtatiously teased Qing Shui.

“Oh my lovely lady, of course you fully deserve my attention. Please let me feast my eyes on you for all eternity of time, even after the oceans have dried up and the rocks crumbled away, I would still want to gaze upon your enchanting visage. Your beauty is akin to an work of art, a beautiful scenery!” Qing Shui seriously replied.

Qing Shui’s words made the lady unable to hold back a laughter, as the sound of her laughter made Qing Shui’s heart go slightly numb. It was extremely comfortable to hear.

“Young Miss Yu, this is my son Qing Shui, please don’t listen to his nonsense. This son of mine is full of warped logic.” Qing Yi happily introduced the both of them, appearing to be very familiar with the young woman that caught Qing Shui’s interest.

“Ah, so it’s the legendary Qing Shui, I heard that the wastrel from the Situ Clan was trounced by you. Good job!” The beautiful

young woman surnamed Yu chortled with laughter as she blinked her eyes. Just looking at her made Qing Shui felt slightly intoxicated.

Qing Shui did not expect his defeat of Situ Bu Fan to spread so fast, even this young woman knew about it. Hmm, Yu He Inn, this woman was also surnamed Yu, could it be that this Inn belonged to her?

“Let’s go, the reserved room is already prepared and awaiting your arrival. Let this meal be on me instead.” The young woman smiled as she led Qing Yi and Yuan Ying forward.

After a short moment, Qing Shui inclined his head and realized that they had arrived at the Yu He Inn. This building was even taller than their Qing Clan’s medicinal store, and in contrast, it displayed a certain sense of extravagance, befitting the fact that it was one of the best inns in the city.

At the top of the building was a banner fluttering like a dragon and phoenix dancing in the wind, with the words “Yu He Inn” written on it.

Other than being grand and imposing, the building was also designed meticulously for practical use. Despite the wintry climate outside, the interior of Yu He Inn was designed with bridges over flowing water, full of beauty and filled with the fragrance of the birds and flowers. The temperature was controlled to make guests feel extremely comfortable. It felt like one was in spring time instead.

Every minor detail was taken note of. Anything regarding customer's comfort and convenience were all fully planned for. For example, even the waitresses of the Inn were top quality beauties, but of course because this place was not in a red-light district like brothels, it was all prim and proper.

From this, one could see that merely dining in the Yu He Inn, was not something that could be afforded by the commoners inhabiting the Hundred Miles City. Only those with a certain status or wealthy families would be able to afford it. Despite the exorbitant prices, there seemed to be no deterrence as Yu He Inn was usually packed to the brim with visitors.

The best seats were obviously at the top of the building. Very quickly, they ascended to the top floor of the Yu He Inn, and entered the room with windows that were facing the streets. Gazing out from this location enable one to take in the full sight of the luxurious street, and one could even see the impressive city walls far off in the horizon.

Only after this did the young lady surnamed Yu left. From the others, Qing Shui managed to find out that her full name was Yu He, and she was the boss of this place. She was one of the clan members belonging to the Yu Clan of Hundred Miles City.

AST: Chapter 52 – Visiting the Hundred Medicinal Garden

Before leaving the Yu He Inn, Qing Shui actually had his tofu eaten [1] by Yu He. Feeling extremely depressed in his heart, Qing Shui almost cried. How could this have happened? Wasn't he the only one qualified to eat the tofu of others? Before Qing Shui and company left, Yu He lightly pinched the sides of his cheeks as she laughingly stated that in the future, all the costs for Qing Shui would be waived should he wish to visit the Yu He Inn.

Qing Yi was smiling in delight after looking at the shy expression on Qing Shui's face; although she would probably vomit blood if she knew what Qing Shui was thinking in his head. In reality, Qing Shui felt an immense amount of satisfaction, and enjoyed it tremendously when the jade-like hands of Yu He were pinching his face. The only thing that was bothering him was the fact that a strapping young man like him was getting teased like a little boy in public by a woman only a few years older. Qing Shui silently despaired. Could it be that she too wants to treat me like a little kid?

As they returned back to the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store, Qing Shui was constantly pondering on how to best transplant the herbs from the Hundred Medicinal Garden to the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The earlier he could transfer them the better; after all a delay of a single day actually meant a waste of 100 days. Hence, Qing Shui was extremely anxious to revisit the Hundred Medicinal Garden to transplant the medicinal herbs into his spatial realm.

“Mother, I wish to visit the Hundred Medicinal Garden. Do you know how many different varieties of spiritual herbs are there?”

“Approximately 1,200 different types, don’t look down on the fact that these herbs are all of the common grade, the demand for them in the market is staggeringly huge.” Qing Yi replied instantly, appearing to be very familiar with the medicinal business.

“The herbs in the Hundred Medicinal Garden, when would they be considered to have matured? After they have matured, what are the steps that need to be taken afterwards? How do we harvest them?” Qing Shui, seeing how familiar Qing Yi was, continued with his questions.

“There are many different kinds of herbs, thus the methods for cultivating and harvesting, as well as the time taken for the herbs to mature are all different. On average, the period for our herbs to mature would usually range between 10 months to two years. For some of the herbs there are no differences in the effects of the herb no matter if we harvested them a year after they matured or 20 years later. Some herbs, even after harvesting, we would just need to cultivate it as per normal, and after a period of time, we could harvest the herbs again. An example would be the leaves from the tea plants. We would only need to pluck the leaves before drying them, and they would be ready to use as medicine. Most of the other herbs, after they have matured we would be able to use the seedlings produced to re-plant the herbs again.

After finishing her explanation, Qing Yi glanced suspiciously at Qing Shui. She wondered why was Qing Shui asking such in-depth

questions.

“Hehe, just a random thought.” Qing Shui ruffled his hair as he sheepishly smiled in response.

“Mother, in the future, just leave all the management of the Hundred Medicinal Garden to me, this way, I will be able to increase my knowledge.” Qing Shui rubbed his hands in glee.

“Hmm, I can agree to your request. Truthfully, there isn’t really much for you to manage over here at Hundred Medicinal Garden. In addition to seeding and harvesting the herbs, the duties includes setting up a store in the streets of the city, and delivering our herbs to auction houses.” Qing Yi briefly explained the crucial things to take note of to Qing Shui.

In the afternoon, Qing Shui spent all his time in the Hundred Medicinal Garden. There were countless herbs being cultivated in here. Some of the herbs sown had a height as tall as a human being, while others were only as tall as the height of a single finger. The herbs looked as though they were planted without any detailed planning, as layers and layers of herbs of different heights adorned the plot of land. However, within this seemingly uncoordinated planting, there existed a sense of beauty.

It appeared that the knowledge gained from reading the three medical books earlier was making itself useful now. Based on the effects of each herb, and the time they took to mature, Qing Shui shifted a portion of herbs which he found useful into his Realm of the Violet Jade immortal.

To his surprise, Qing Shui even found some rare spiritual herbs such as snow lotuses, ginseng and linzhi being cultivated inside the Hundred Medicinal Garden. Qing Shui walked closer to the plot of land that measured about 10 square foot. From his estimations, these rare herbs were about 2-3 years of age. Sneakily glancing around, Qing Shui did what he did best and transferred a small portion of it back inside his spatial realm.

Throughout the entire afternoon, in order to mask his movements, Qing Shui would only choose 3-5 stalks of the best herbs that could be found in the Hundred Medicinal Garden to be transferred into his spatial realm. After a whole afternoon of hard work, the land in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was no longer as barren as before. A patch of green could be seen where all the herbs seedlings were transplanted.

Qing Shui did not want to cultivate too many of any one herb. His wish was to fill up all the space inside the spatial realm with a wide variety of herbs. However, this was obviously impossible to accomplish in the short term.

“Hmm, I should go to the storage house”, Qing Shui thought. He wanted to see if there were any herbs that he missed.

The storage house was located near the entrance to the Hundred Medical Garden. Pushing open the two heavy steel doors, Qing Shui stepped inside and discovered that the ventilation in the storage room was very good due to the many small windows embedded on the roof.

There were many tables in the storage room, and placed on them were many sealed baskets and sacks. It seems as though those herbs that were fully dried were placed inside the sacks, and sealed inside the baskets were all the half-sunned and half-dried herbs. The storage room wasn't that big, only about 30 square feet large. Qing Shui continued exploring the storage house, and as he walked towards the end, he finally discovered what he was looking for. In front of him were many baskets filled with colorful seeds of different sizes, belonging to a variety of different herbs.

“These... The seeds of the rare White Poria Flower, Agony Leaves and White Crane Lingzhi!” Qing Shui excitedly grab a few handful of seeds for each variety. After the time it took to brew a cup of tea, and after he completed his efforts, only then did Qing Shui feel at ease in his heart. In any case, with the amazing effects of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, if he did not fully maximize the potential of the realm, then he might as well bang his head on a wall and die for being an idiot.

By the time night had fallen, the efforts shown earlier in the day had exhausted Qing Shui. Despite his exhaustion, he did not fall asleep immediately. It had already become a routine for him to enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal for his cultivation every night. With a slight exercise of his will, Qing Shui stepped inside his spatial realm as a surprising sight awaited him...

[1] getting his tofu eaten – getting taken advantage of

AST: Chapter 53 – Discovered Treasure?

That night, after Qing Shui entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, his face broke out into a smile as he discovered that his backbreaking efforts of transplanting the seedlings earlier in the afternoon had already been rewarded. The former barren patch of land was now filled with a myriad of colors, there were green-colored herbs, yellow-colored herbs and red-colored herbs beginning to sprout within the boundaries of that plot of land. It was extremely pleasing to see, and gave off an atmosphere that was brimming with vitality which had not been present in the barren land before.

Looking at the big patch of growth that was in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui slowly strolled to the center of the realm where the crystal-clear lake was located. The spiritual energy emitted by the crystal water felt extremely abundant to him, as Qing Shui wondered : “Hmm, maybe I could rear some species of fishes and turtles here? I could eat them up after they are fully grown. The dishes which I ate previously at the Yu He Inn were just too delicious.”

(TL: How evil... what a glutton)

“The turtle soup could be considered a great source of nourishment. It nourishes the most important part of a guy’s body. However, why did Yu He order that dish for us? Perhaps it is for 3rd uncle Qing Hu?” Qing Shui scratched his head in confusion as he started to wildly guess. After all, Yu He was an incomparably ravishing hot babe, but Qing Shui could not begin to guess at her intentions.

“How evil, to think that 3rd uncle, appearing to be honest on the surface, was actually hunting for beauties under the eyes of aunty Yuan Ying. What a powerful facade. A true man does not reveal his intentions easily.”

The more Qing Shui thought of it, the more possible it felt to him. That day, on the lunch table, Qing Shui noticed that his 3rd uncle drank many bowls of the turtle soup. Although Qing Shui drank a lot too, but there was no way Yu He was interested in him right? The only reason why he drank the turtle soup was because he found it delicious. After all, Qing Shui currently did not have a partner to unleash all the nefarious fire contained in his loins, so why would he need to nourish his little bird that much? If he drank too much of it, wouldn't it be akin to him finding trouble for himself, since there was no way for him to let off his heat?

Initially, Qing Shui wanted to immediately release a few live fishes into the crystal lake for an experiment, but after thinking for a bit, he decided to temporarily shelve the idea.

“There is no hurry, I will do so once I have the opportunity to get the live fishes.”

Clearing his head of the distracting thoughts, Qing Shui sat down and crossed his legs as he began to circulate the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Only after he had some accomplishment in the Ancient Strengthening Technique, would his path be smoother in the future. One cycle of circulation, two cycle of circulation... Time passed and as Qing Shui met the barrier at the 48th cycle, he gathered all his energy, while enduring the

backlash, trying to push past the barrier with all his force. The end result was... failure. There was not even the slightest bit of inclination that the barrier would budge.

“What the fuck! Why is it still not working? Is my potential truly so weak?” Qing Shui sighed with depression evident in his eyes. Creasing his brows, he stood up. Despite having such a god-sent treasured item before him, with Qing Shui fully maxing out the available cultivation time inside of the spatial realm he still could not break through the 4th heavenly layer at all. An extreme sense of despair which he had never felt before arose in his heart. If he could not break through to the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he would be forever destined to be a pitiful worm struggling on the ground. Don’t even mention the Yan Clan, he could not even afford to offend the few great clans stationed in the Hundred Miles City.

The Iaido technique, which he comprehended from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>>, had already reached the small-success stage. In order to raise his strength rapidly in the short term, Qing Shui decided to focus his efforts on training the “piercing” effect of his sword arts. Using the three word mantra – Swift, Accurate, Decisive, Qing Shui wanted to base on his understanding of the mantra’s essence, and concentrate all his might onto his sword tip.

Speaking of it was easy, but actually executing it was beyond tough. Despite the difficulty, Qing Shui still wielded his Scryrius Iron Wood Sword and slashed out arcs in the air. After which, he shook his head. The feel of the technique did not seem to feel right. Again and again, Qing Shui would contemplate each of the sword movements as he slashed out, trying to find the optimal point.

The next day, just as dawn was breaking, Qing Shui woke up punctually. As the saying goes, a whole day's work depended on a good start in the morning. Taking in a deep breath, Qing Shui enjoyed the fresh morning air.

After which, he descended to the first floor of their residence, only to see a clumsy silhouette doggedly practicing the Solitary Rapid Fist.

“Wow, he is even more determined than me!” Qing Shui could see Qing Shi struggling to understand the concepts behind the set of fist technique. Although determination was important, in the end, talent played a huge part in the path to cultivation.

“Qing Shi, you are already awake!” Qing Shui smiled as he greeted Qing Shi.

“Hehe, Qing Shui, you yourself have already awoken too. There's no choice, my talent is not that good, and as such I would have to put in more effort in cultivation when compared to others, that is the only way I could ever hope to catch up.” Qing Shi was very optimistic, and just by seeing that honest smile of his, it felt just like the splitting image of his father, Qing Hu.

Just with a casual glance, Qing Shui could tell that the Solitary Rapid Fist executed by Qing Shi was full of openings and flaws. Naturally, Qing Shui began correcting Qing Shi on his stance, and instructing him in the appropriate amount of strength and pathways of attacks.

After that, Qing Shui personally instructed Qing Shi by sparring with him, pointing out his errors and enabling Qing Shi to experience rapid improvement, which caused Qing Shi to be overwhelmed with gratitude.

After breakfast.

“Qing Shui, as this your first time here in the Hundred Miles City, you should explore the streets together with Qing Shan and Qing Shi. After all, the young ones like yourselves should enjoy the lively atmosphere.” Qing Hu suggested. He was very happy that Qing Shui had defeated the scion from the Situ Clan. Because of Qing Shui, the Qing Clan’s face and reputation skyrocketed in the Hundred Miles City.

“Right, okay, I have the same intention as well, after all this place is so much larger than our Qing Village. I’m sure the streets will be filled with plenty of excitement.” Qing Shui lightly smiled.

After which, the three youngsters walked out of the Qing Clan’s Medicinal Store. Looking at the lively crowd outside on the streets, there were even some who mounted strange, exotic-looking beasts whose steps rumbled through the streets with an air of grandeur. In particular, Qing Shui loved observing such strange ferocious beasts. He knew that a beast tamer profession existed in this world. If he could one day learn the secret arts required for beast taming, and tame a bunch of ferocious beasts into submission, how cool would that be?

Street stores on both sides of the streets had all kinds of strange and fascinating curios out on display. Before Qing Shui and the rest went out, Qing Yi had passed a bank note of 100 taels of silver to him. Although this amount could not be considered huge, it was not little as well. After all, in comparison, an expenditure of this amount was sufficient for the six members of the Qing Clan to enjoy a meal at the Yu He Inn.

The three youngster strolled about, slowly exploring each corner of the bustling street. Suddenly, they saw an old man setting up a small store on the ground. The old man was so decrepit-looking that he almost seemed to have a foot in his grave, but bizarrely, his eyes were sparkling bright. The only reason why Qing Shui noticed this particular store was because the crowds of people seemed to be avoiding this particular spot, and had no interest in giving patronage to the old man. This left a conspicuously empty corner in the middle of the streets.

There were only two items displayed. One was a black-colored tree branch the size of a baby's arm, and a dark and swarthy piece of black stone. Qing Shui felt extremely puzzled, why would this old man put two seemingly black and ugly looking things out on display?

There were many passersby, but after taking a look, all of them dispersed, clearly they had no intention of buying the items that were displayed. Out of curiosity Qing Shui squatted down as he scrutinized both of the dirty looking things on display. "Old man, what are these two things? Can I know the price?"

The bright eyes of the old man regarded Qing Shui intently.

Although Qing Shui was displaying interest in his goods, the old man did not appear happy as he emotionlessly glanced at the two items on display before saying, "I'm not sure either. All I know is that this branch is at least 60 years of age, but look at it, still sleek and shiny, with no signs of rotting. As for this substance similar to a stone, I know only that it is incomparably tough, even blacksmiths are incapable of refining it."

Qing Shui's heart skipped a beat, perhaps, just like what he always read in the novels in his previous world, has he come upon a treasure? However, he immediately discarded the thought, after all, how could treasures be so easily found? Still, that stone was incomparably tough, and Qing Shui was interested in buying it.

"Old man, could I inspect these two items slowly?" Qing Shui wanted to test if the stone-like object was as tough as what the old man said.

"Little brother, take all the time you need." The old man nonchalantly replied.

Qing Shui first picked up the dirty looking tree branch, and at the same instant he came into contact with it, he could feel a tremendous life-force welling up within it. More accurately, Qing Shui could feel an abundance of spiritual energy being emitted from this black-colored tree branch. It was... Some what similar to the spiritual energy emitted by the crystal lake in his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Without a doubt, Qing Shui could conclude that this branch was a treasure indeed, it was just that he was unsure of what exactly it was.

Next, Qing Shui held the black and swarthy stone-like substance up in his palm, silently, without anyone noticing, Qing Shui using a part of his 20,000 jin strength, directly applied pressure as he tried to crush it. One had to know that if it was normal iron or steel, after that level of pressure had been applied by Qing Shui, their shape would surely be distorted.

However, there were no changes to this piece of black stone-like substance. Qing Shui stared at it, thunderstruck. A thought floated about in his mind, but it was nothing but a guess.

“Could this be... Iron Essence? A material that was tougher by iron at least a 100 times!”

AST: Chapter 54 – Challenge from Hundred Miles City

“Could this be... Iron Essence? A material that was tougher than iron by at least a 100 times!”

If this stone-like thing was really the fabled iron essence, then it could be considered as having obtained a treasure. In any case, Qing Shui had already discarded any thoughts he had of saving his money. He was prepared to go all out, and was determined to purchase this. Money, after being spent can always be earned again, but if he missed the chance to obtain a treasure, who knew how long would it be before he could come across another chance like this again.

“Old man, how much do you want for these two items?” Qing Shui decided to go straight to the point as he did not want to waste time haggling over the price for the items.

“There was once someone who offered me 80 taels of silver for this tree branch, but I didn’t accept then. However, now in order to survive I have no choice but to sell it. Little Brother, if you are willing to take out 80 taels of silver, besides this tree branch I can throw in the dark stone for you as well.”

Without any hesitation, Qing Shui immediately took out the banknote which Qing Yi had given him, and paid the old man for the two items. After obtaining the items, he immediately deposited them inside his spatial realm, rubbing his hands in glee. In the other stalls nearby, Qing Shan and Qing Shi were still haggling over the prices of other curios with their respective sellers.

In the blink of an eye, Qing Shui was only left with 20 taels of silver. But in his eyes, the two items he had just obtained was definitely worth much more than that. Qing Shui knew that even with 1,000 or 10,000 taels of gold, one would not necessarily be able to purchase such treasures.

Walking to where Qing Shan and Qing Shi were, Qing Shui discovered that they were both currently looking at a piece of jade in the shape of a pendant. Qing Shui knew nothing about the jade, be it the grading of the purity, or the pricing of the jade. However, from the heated expression in Qing Shan's eyes, Qing Shui knew that his cousin was hooked. The crafty seller obviously did not miss Qing Shan's heated expression with his sharp eyes.

“Yo, little brother, this jade pendant is obviously of the top grade. Look at the clear green color, the cutting and the solidity of it!” The middle-aged seller enthusiastically promoted his wares.

All merchants were crafty in nature, Qing Shui could feel that, this seller in front of him was someone who had already perfected the arts of selling. In his previous world, such a person would be called a master salesman. Be it the tone of voice, the amount of hesitancy used, the enthusiastic sharing of information, the smile, the way of speaking; all of it was meticulously designed to make the customer feel at ease. How many would be able to resist it?

“Qing Shan, how much does he want to sell it for?” Qing Shui smiled lightly as he took note of the way Qing Shan was clutching it. Thinking in his heart: You fool! Don't you know what a poker face is? Just by looking at you, one would already know that you

are determined to buy it, after seeing this, if the owner doesn't butcher you, then he would be the idiotic one!"

"50 taels of silver." Qing Shan creased his forehead as he replied.

Although Qing Shui did not know jade, he knew that any grade of jade that 50 taels of silver would purchase, would certainly not be any good stuff. It may even be the lowest grade of jade.

"50 taels of silver? That expensive? Forget it Qing Shan, earlier when I was strolling through the streets, I noticed another booth not far away from here. Among the wares, there was even a jade pendant that looked similar to this! The other seller was only selling it for 10 taels of silver, let us go take a look. We could always come back here later. Qing Shui interjected, foiling the plots of the crafty merchant.

"Is this true? How far away is it? Does the jade pendant really look the same?" Qing Shan's heart was moved. Silently observing the expression of the merchant, which ranged from urgency to panic, Qing Shui knew that his plan was going to be successful.

"Oh the booth is really near to here. Rest assured, the jade pendant looks exactly the same, and not only that, I heard that the other booth was giving out some freebies if you purchase their jade pendant too. Let's go!" Qing Shui beamed with a wide smile.

"Wait! Wait! Don't panic, the price is always negotiable. How much would you young sirs be willing to pay for this jade?" The crafty merchant almost cried when he saw that Qing Shan was

leaving.

“Hmm, how about 10 taels of silver in addition to you throwing in that little jade lion over there?” Qing Shui, after replying, pointed his finger in the direction of a tattered looking small carving of a jade lion. Ever since his experience with the Yin-Yang pendant, Qing Shui had begun to take an interest in worn and tattered things.

(TL: is Qing shui's new profession a rags & bones man? xD)

Initially, the crafty merchant thought to renegotiate, but after seeing the steely glint of determination in Qing Shui's eyes, he could only blame his luck and accepted the offer.

“Qing Shui, this lion belongs to you, thank you. Luckily you were here, if not I would be sucked dry by that black-hearted merchant. After all, I only have about 50 taels of silver on me” Qing Shan stated before happily passing the jade lion over to Qing Shui.

“Hehehe, how could there be another similar jade pendant? The moment I saw the merchant, I could already tell that he was a black-hearted guy. To think that he would fall for my bluff.”

Qing Shui was concurrently fiddling around with the jade lion while strolling about the streets, chatting with Qing Shan and Qing Shi. After half a day, he still had not discovered anything out of the ordinary with the jade lion. “How could there be so many treasures lying about” Qing Shui sighed. While Qing Shan, ever since he bought the jade pendant, had been infatuated by it to the point

where he took the jade pendant out for admiration every few minutes. Shaking his head, Qing Shui could not understand why Qing Shan was so in love with that ordinary piece of jade. If it was him, he would only be obsessed to this extent if the jade had the same mystical properties of his Yin-Yang Jade Pendant.

After which, they wandered to an even more bustling street. Not to mention, the stores on both sides of the street were more luxurious looking. There were tailor shops and most importantly, weapon stores!

“Let us go to the weapon store!” Qing Shui led the way as they entered into the luxurious looking store.

The difference between weapon stores and blacksmiths were that in weapon stores, all of the equipment was already made and ready for sale. While for the blacksmith, you would have to place your customized order, and decide on the length of the weapon, which materials use for forging, the shape, etc ,etc

As he entered into the store, Qing Shui eyes sparkled with luster. There were a myriad of weapons of all varieties lying about here: Sabres, Spears, Swords, Staves, Axes, Whips, Tridents, Halberds, Hook Swords, Hammers, Chakrams.

From Qing Shui’s estimation, there were at least about 30 different varieties of weapons. As he scratched his head in puzzlement, he pondered... Weren’t there only 18 types of weapons? Suddenly, in an instant, the hair on the back of his neck stood up, and Qing Shui could sense a glare filled with killing intent directed towards his back.

Swiftly turning around, ai, the paths of enemies were bound to cross indeed. Situ Bu Fan, along with five to six other teenagers, had just entered the weapon store too. That malicious gaze belonged to Situ Bu Fan, it seemed as though Qing Shui had left a huge shadow in his heart. To think that Situ Bu Fan could recognize him just from his back view alone.

Qing Shui could clearly feel the sense of rage emanating from Situ Bu Fan. After all, Qing Shui did embarrass him greatly. A young master from one of the four great clans of Hundred Miles City, losing to a country bumpkin who was five years younger than him? If that was not embarrassing enough, how about a 3rd Grade Martial General, losing to a 3rd Grade Martial Warrior, losing to someone an entire realm below him.

Ignoring Situ Bu Fan, Qing Shui swept his gaze across the other youths standing beside him. All of them were decked out in expensive looking garbs, and had hints of arrogance embedded between their brows. Seems like these youths were from the various large clans and powerful factions that hailed from Hundred Miles City.

“To think that you dare to step into my Hundred Miles City. I was just about to go to the Qing Village to look for you. Thanks for saving me all the trouble.” The current Situ Bu Fan no longer had the pretentious look about him that was prevalent back when he stood upon the Qing Clan’s arena.

“This was the country bumpkin that defeated you?” With disdain heavily filling his voice, one of the youths at the side of Situ Bu Fan

exclaimed.

From the looks of this youth, he was about 25-26 years of age. Without knowing why, Qing Shui was filled with the same revulsion just like when he stared at Situ Bu Fan.

Birds of a feather flock together, these bunch of rich men's sons grew up in the loving embrace of a protective bubble. Such humans always seemed to be looking down at people while they did not realize that they were nothing but frogs in a well.

“Yes, this is the guy who sneak attacked me. I never expected his strength to be so huge, and lost due to a moment of carelessness.” Situ Bu Fan hatefully exclaimed, twisting his words to maintain an aura of righteous fury. Qing Shui gawked. This was the first time that he saw someone who was a better actor than him.

After the words were said, not only Qing Shui, Qing Shi and Qing Shan found it ludicrous as well and started laughing uproariously.

After laughing, Qing Shi disdainfully replied, “Sneak attack? To think you have the gall to say such nonsense. That day, Qing Shui magnanimously gifted you three moves. To think that a revered Martial General couldn't even defeat a Martial Warrior with a three move advantage. Not only that, as a Martial General, you couldn't even stand up to one of his attacks. Vomiting blood and even getting knocked unconscious? Pei! Your face is even thicker than yo mama ass.”

(TL: Pei = sound of spitting. The yourmama joke was not in the

raws, just something i added to spice up the conversation xD)

Qing Shui laughed, never did he expect that the honest looking Qing Shi, was also capable of using psychological attacks.

However, that last sentence was the limit of Situ Bu Fan. “ARGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH, I WILL KILL YOU! FIGHT ME.” Situ Bu Fan’s whole body was shaking from barely suppressing his anger, as he shrieked madly while glaring at Qing Shui with bloodshot eyes, akin to a raging bull.

AST: Chapter 55 – Overwhelming

Staring at the crazed look in Situ Bu Fan's eyes, Qing Shui knew that "face" was even more important than life itself for people like Situ Bu Fan. Well, not my problem, since he is already this incensed, why not let me add some oil to the fire.

"Challenge me? Are you worthy? If everyone wanted to challenge me, wouldn't it be very troublesome?" Qing Shui coldly replied, with a scornful note in his voice.

Right from the start, regarding this bunch of youths, the moment Qing Shui saw them, he already had no favorable impression. Although he could see that their cultivation level was relatively strong for their age, Qing Shui knew that without a doubt this effect was caused from the ingestion of spiritual medicines. For the cultivation realms below Martial Commander, the effects of spiritual medicine would be at their strongest. This was because the pills concocted by low grade alchemists had virtually no effect on those who were at the Martial Commander Realm or higher.

Looking at the arrogant expressions on their face, one could see that this bunch of 25-26 year old youths had respect for no one. They thought that with their meager bit of power they were the ultimate existences in this Hundred Miles City. Qing Shui could only feel contempt for people like them.

Although the great clans of Hundred Miles City had a history of a few hundred years, to think that the descendants of these clans with such a shallow backing actually dared to be so conceited, and as proud as lucifer. This could only be considered the case of a frog

living at the bottom of the well, with no concept of the vast world outside.

“You, you... you...” Situ Bu Fan choked on his words as he stuttered, never had he suffered such a grave humiliation.

“FUCK! Stop dodging me, are you afraid?” This time around, Situ Bu Fan drew his sword, and pointed the tip at Qing Shui as he reissued the challenge again.

Qing Shui furrowed his brows, according to the rules of combat in the world of the nine continents there were only two choices when someone pointed his sword at you and issued a challenge. First, you accept his challenge, and life and death shall be decided by the victor. Second, you surrender!

Initially, Qing Shui had not wanted to be in the limelight so quickly again just after he arrived in Hundred Miles City. Despite the fact that he was stronger than the peers of his generations, when comparing himself to the might of the 4 great clans of the Hundred Miles City, there was still some distance away. His meager bit of strength could not allow him to wander the city unchallenged, but he was not an idiot nor a frog in the well akin to the 5-6 youths which were currently surrounding him.

Sigh, Qing Shui was caught between a rock and a hard place. If he lost, he would be subjected to endless humiliation. If he won, he would face unending challenges. If he defeated all of the younger generations in the Hundred Miles City, there was no guarantee that the elders from the four great clans would not hunt him down. What a terrible headache.

Surrendering? There was no way Qing Shui would stand for it. Although the saying went A true man does not react to provocations, but these bunch of lowlives in front of him were a constant eyesore to him.

“Since you want to court death, I will help you. Get out and wait for me, I will be out after I have bought my weapon.” Qing Shui furrowed his brows. He knew that based on the personalities of the bunch of rich young masters, the more he tolerated, the more they would climb over his head. Against these types of people, the best way to sever their arrogance was to show them strength.

“This brat seems to be quite confident, you sure you can handle him?” One of the youths near Situ Bu Fan spoke, as the whole lot of them walked outside the weapon store.

“Are you doubting me? Trust me, I was empty-handed when I fought with him last time. Because of a moment of carelessness, he sneak attacked me. This time around, I want to let him know of the difference between the heavens and earth. I want to show him what an insignificant insect he is. I want him to forever lower his head in shame, and to know that Hundred Miles City is not a place for the likes of him to visit.” Situ Bu Fan grit his teeth and said with hatred.

Qing Shui showed no reaction after he heard the words they had spoken. Hatred? Let them hate, the more their emotions influenced them, the more clumsy they would be. No longer caring about them, Qing Shui proceeded forward to the weapons rack and began to choose a weapon.

Looking at the prices of the weapons sold, and inspecting his money pouch again and again, Qing Shui's jaw dropped. "Damn it, seems like I could only afford that common ironwood sword. Forget it, I will just buy it then." The previous Scryius Iron Sword, had already been worn out by Qing Shui with his repeated usage when practicing his sword skills in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

"Boss, could you sell this ironwood sword to me cheaper?" Looking at the common ironwood sword which cost 18 tales of silver, although the workmanship was exquisite, the weight of the sword was much heavier than he had expected. In addition to that, the edges and the tip of the sword were not as sharp as he liked, it was somewhat thick and blunt, and doesn't seem to be like a weapon at all. Instead, it was more akin to an ornament or a child's plaything.

"No bargaining, this sword was crafted by our master smith." The middle-aged boss stated firmly. Without a choice, Qing Shui could only smile wryly as he purchased the ironwood sword.

When Qing Shui finally stepped out of the store, his challengers were all slack-jawed, especially Situ Bu Fan, the sword in his hand was trembling uncontrollably.

"You, excellent, excellent, excellent..." After saying, Situ Bu Fan was bristling with so much anger, almost to the point of eruption. To think that Qing Shui would slight him so much.

Qing Shui shrugged, it was not that he did not want to purchase a proper weapon. But with the amount of money he had left, he had

no choice but to opt for this instead. “What a waste, if I had known that Situ Bu Fan would be angered to this extent, I would have just picked a tree branch before turning up for the challenge. Might as well let Situ Bu Fan burst his blood vessels and die, it would save me the trouble.”

“Fucking country bumpkin who has no idea of death.”

Despite all the vocal abuse, Qing Shui felt nothing. He would not lower himself to their level.

This time round, Situ Bu Fan dare not underestimate Qing Shui. He carefully drew out a blue-colored treasure sword, and in that instant, the body of the sword seemed to gleamed with layers of blue light, emitting a sense of chill, causing the temperature of the surroundings to dip rapidly.

“This sword of mine is also known as the cold ice sword, prepare to meet your maker!” Even before he finished his sentence, Situ Bu Fan had already leapt forward, fast and furious, the sword in his hand continuously slashed out arcs, sealing the path of advancement and retreat for Qing Shui.”

“Since you want to play, I will play with you!” The Iaido technique which he comprehended from the three-word mantra, had already been practiced millions upon millions of time, to the state where he could turn something ordinary into extraordinary. The Iaido technique that Qing Shui executed, there was nothing fanciful in it. It looked simple and ordinary, with the only emphasis being on the word “speed”. The speed which he unleashed this attack was swift to the point where it dazzled the

eyes, reaching an unfathomable realm.

That ordinary sword strike of Qing Shui seemed to shine with the brilliance of a comet. It dazzled the eyes of the spectators, and even himself. Although he was unable to see the sword strikes infused with the killing intent from Situ Bu Fan, Qing Shui was not worried. Before the attack could reach him, during that span of time, Qing Shui knew that he could unleash a torrent of up to a few hundred sword stabs.

“Bang!” The sword of Qing Shui stabbed right into the You Chi acupoint of Situ Bu Fan’s wrist. Not only was the speed of the strike as fast as lightning, but it was also extremely accurate. Such a thing would only be possible if one had practiced with the sword for decades.

Situ Bu Fan stood there dumbly, not even realizing what had happened. When he came to his senses, his eyes turned into saucers as he was filled with disbelief. Looking at his dumbfounded expressions, Qing Shui took the chance to wink at him.

Situ Bu Fan had long recognized the sword attack that Qing Shui was using. “There was no way I could win empty-handed, and thus, I wanted to depend on the sharpness of my weapon to effortlessly defeat him, and yet as before, he only used a single strike. Not only that, that strike was from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>>!”

“What the fuck? This brat is using the <<Basic Sword Techniques>>, this is impossible right? Although the form looked similar, but the speed and force behind it was extremely

tyrannical. To think that the sword forms from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> could be used this way.” One of the youths with Situ Bu Fan muttered after he came to his senses.

“Brat, I don’t know what witchcraft you are using. Taste my sword!” Another youth, the one who looked down on Qing Shui earlier, after he came to his senses, began utilizing a movement technique, swiftly moving in the form of the word “之”, as he unleashed a sword strike towards Qing Shui.

Qing Shui calmly analyzed the sword strike of his current opponent. From the surface, the sword looked ferocious and unparalleled in strength, seemingly rushing straight towards him. However, from the way his opponent stepped, and the angle of his attacks, as well as the directional shift in his eyes, Qing Shui knew that that the sword strike unleashed was a feint, the actual strike had still yet to make its appearance. Pretending to overlook that, Qing Shui decided to prominently display some openings to bait the sword user. He had long found this arrogant youth to be an eyesore.

Standing there motionlessly, as Qing Shui expected, within the shadow of the first stab, was another stab with even greater strength and speed. “Shadow Illusion Swordplay!” The youth cried out. Just when the sword was about 3 inches away from penetrating his body, Qing Shui executed the Ghostly Steps, sidestepping to the left, and with a flip of his wrist, Qing Shui rotated the ironwood sword in his hand, causing the edges of the sword to face the ground. Using the flat side of the sword body, he mercilessly slammed the thick body of the sword right at the temple of his opponent with breathtaking speed.

“Pa!”

That arrogant youth swooned, as he fainted right away. This strike of Qing Shui had targeted his head. It would have been as easy as flipping the palm of his hand if Qing Shui had wanted his life.

Maybe it was the shock that Qing Shui defeated two of their comrades, or maybe, it was the look of derision in the eyes of the crowd, the remaining youths could not tolerate it any longer as they all drew out their weapons and rushed towards Qing Shui.

Looking at the enraged faces of the other youths, Qing Shui shook his head helplessly and began executing his Ghostly Steps. “One shot, one kill”, His silhouette flashed as he stepped in and out of the shadows, while the ironwood sword in his hand stabbed out repeatedly.

AST: Chapter 56 – Meeting Shi Qing Zhuang Again

Looking at the thunderstruck expression of Situ Bu Fan, Qing Shui waved his hands towards him and beamed. Littered around the ground were the unconscious bodies of all his friends.

A bitterness arose in Situ Bu Fan's heart. This group of friends, especially Shi Zong Yao from the Shi Clan, had already broken through to the 5th Grade of the Martial General Realm. Thinking back to when he had lost to Qing Shui in the Qing Clan, and after he returned to Hundred Miles City, Shi Zong Yao was the one who was the most vocal, and had scolded Situ Bu Fan until the dog's blood dripped on his head [1]. He called him a pig head and other nasty sounding names, throwing away the face of Hundred Miles City. To think that now, that same "country bumpkin" actually defeated Shi Zong Yao. Wasn't his defeat even more humiliating than himself?

This was just human nature. When there was only one person who was defeated, the person would inevitably feel that he is useless. However, when among the group, if a person with a stronger cultivation level than him had lost, then it was no longer a disgrace. It was a truth that the person standing before him was stronger than them!

At this moment, the ruckus caused many people on the street to train their sights upon him. With no wish to be spectated like a caged animal in a zoo, Qing Shui motioned Qing Shi and Qing Shan to prepare to leave the area. However, the instant he turned his head, a numbness filled his heart. Was he hallucinating? The ice

cold visage of the person which he had always dreamt about was right there in front of him!

Shi Qing Zhuang!

Shi Qing Zhuang was wearing a fiery-red pleated skirt, as her cold eyes were filled with complexity. She stood there mutely not even saying a word, and just stared at him silently.

The Qing Shui now, felt his heartbeat quicken. The person he always wanted was standing right in front of him, gazing at him. Despite his experiences from two lifetimes, he was essentially still a virgin and did not have much experience with the opposite sex. Although he had read a lot of dating theory books, and even watched many artistic films, how could that be compared to reality! Licking his lips, he told himself not to be nervous as he greeted Shi Qing Zhuang.

“H... Hi! How are you doing? Do you remember me? I was the one who rode your emberlion steed that day when you visited the Qing Village.” Qing Shui rustled his hair as he hurriedly forced a smile onto his face to cover for the awkward moment where he had stuttered.

Shi Qing Zhuang's cold countenance slightly melted as her sexy red lips slightly twitched into a light smile. Ahhh that smile, it was akin to the brilliance of the life-giving sun in the dead cold of winter, and the blissful wind that blew past you during the scorching heat of the summer. Qing Shui found that he had forgotten the words he was preparing to say, as he lost himself in her smile.

“Follow me!” Shi Qing Zhuang’s cool and sweet sounding voice drifted over, before she turned and left.

An extremely complicated feeling mixed with bitterness and depression arose in Situ Bu Fan’s heart. Shi Qing Zhuang was a woman who had been betrothed to him ever since they were babies, and she had never even spared a glance at him.

Qing Shui started, but he swiftly recovered. With a huge grin on his face he waved goodbye to Qing Shi and Qing Shan. That smile on his face was something that all men knew about – the smile of someone about to get laid. After the two of them had departed, Qing Shui speedily chased after the silhouette of Shi Qing Zhuang.

After Qing Shui heard the two words uttered coldly by Shi Qing Zhuang, he immediately came to rapt attention. Although he disliked pretentious and haughty ladies, but to him, this was the true personality of Shi Qing Zhuang! Furthermore, she had not even glanced at her fiancée, but had already spoken with him. He silently cheering himself on. Hehehe, seems like I’m really popular indeed. Not to mention that currently, Shi Qing Zhuang was the most beautiful lady he had ever met.

Behind them, Situ Bu Fan gnashed his teeth in frustration, as a venomous look filled with hatred was directed at the back of Shi Qing Zhuang and Qing Shui. Gritting his teeth, he swore, “Fucking adulterous couple, one day I will fondle her right in front of your eyes.”

As they walked together, unknown whether it was mere coincidence or pre-planned action, the shoulders of Qing Shui constantly rubbed against that of Shi Qing Zhuang.

Shi Qing Zhuang slightly wrinkled her brows, as she coldly stared at Qing Shui who was beside her. To her surprise, she discovered that this little fellow actually had refined and exquisite features, and had a face filled with elegance and slight bit of masculinity, with eyes filled with a clear sense of direction. This was a man who knew what he wanted to achieve in the future. Inadvertently, she could not help but to compare him to those “refined” men who were around her, who appeared gentle and kindhearted on the surface, but in reality were constantly checking her out secretly with eyes filled with lust. The difference between them was akin to that of heaven and earth.

His eyes, were especially charming. They seemed to hold within them an enchantment that made people want to stare at them. In between his eyebrows, was a hint of heroic spirit that could entrance most ladies. Additionally, that cheeky smile of his was filled with enthusiasm and brightness on the outside, but Shi Qing Zhuang could tell that it was nothing but a mockery. She could see that hidden within Qing Shui’s smile, were traces of traits that were similar to her, aloof and proud. Overall, Shi Qing Zhuang could not help but to conclude that this little fellow was indeed good looking.

Suddenly, Shi Qing Zhuang froze. How could I be so mesmerized with external appearances, and not to mention this is a kid that is even younger than me.

“Elder Sis Zhuang, why are you staring?” Qing Shui suddenly interjected, calling out a term that seemed somewhat appropriate. After all, Shi Qing Zhuang was about 5 years older than him.

After hearing the term used to address her, Qing Shi Zhuang almost jumped up in shock, but quickly, got over it. It seemed somewhat correct for Qing Shui to address her as such.

“Don’t you know that you have just created immense trouble?” Qing Shi Zhuang calmly stated.

“Trouble? What trouble do you mean? Could it be that bunch of trash?” Qing Shui laughingly replied. Qing Shui could sense that the reply made earlier by Shi Qing Zhuang vaguely hinted at concern for his well-being, which caused his heart to be slightly warmed.

“Trash? You are right, but do you know who these trash are?” Shi Qing Zhuang’s lips lightly twitched, as though she was suppressing her laughter because Qing Shui just made a joke.

Qing Shui shook his head, staring at Shi Qing Zhuang, waiting for her to tell him the answers.

“You should know that Situ Bu Fan is from the Situ Clan. Among the trash, one of them was my 2nd brother, Shi Zong Yao, there was also the young master of the Ding Clan. And do you know that the Ding Clan was a large clan on the scale of the Situ Clan? You really are something, first time in Hundred Miles City and you have already created trouble with three of the largest clans here.

“Shit.” Qing Shui thought. Never did he expected that Shi Qing Zhuang’s brother would be among the people he defeated. However, despite explaining everything, Shi Qing Zhuang did not appear upset, or have any hints of dismay or reproachfulness, even after knowing that he was the one who defeated her brother.

“Although you defeated this bunch of people, you ought to know that with their caliber, there is no way that they were the main scions of the four great clans. Take my second brother for example, under the doting care of my parents and with the aid of countless spiritual medicine, he broke through to the 5th Grade of the Martial General Realm. But so what? What has it done for him? He severely lacks actual combat experiences, even a 1st Grade Martial General that has honed their skills in actual combat would easily be able to defeat him.” Shi Qing Zhuang explained as her brows slightly creased. It was as if she was trying to warn Qing Shui of something unsaid.

“Hehehe, are you worried for me or concerned about me.” Qing Shui smiled cheekily, as though he was not worried at all.

AST: Chapter 57 – Endless Flirtation, Asking for a Yard after Obtaining an Inch

Qing Shui was extremely joyful at this moment, as he got bolder and bolder. If it was under normal circumstances, he would definitely wouldn't have dared to utter such words, constantly verbally taking advantage of Shi Qing Zhuang.

Upon hearing Qing Shui's constant smooth talk, Shi Qing Zhuang felt very bizarre. She was the youngest among her family, and was the only female child. As such, she was the shining pearl of the Shi Clan, and was showered with love and affection from a child till now.

Because of her cold and aloof nature, even when she was younger, children around her had never once called her elder sister. This was the first time she was called elder sister by albeit, a younger guy than her, but that guy could also already be considered an adult! Such a sensation was truly new to her.

“You better stop talking so glibly! I have yet to seek you out for revenge for what you did to my second brother!” Shi Qing Zhuang got more and more flustered, this guy was obviously taking advantage of her verbally, and yet, she did not feel the slightest bit of anger. Instead of anger, she even felt the urge to laugh. This was not her, this had never happened before.

That pretty pout in embarrassment by Shi Qing Zhuang electrocuted Qing Shui. Slack-jawed, he stored it deep inside his memory. Keeping his silence, he continued stealing glances at Shi Qing Zhuang. That cold beauty of hers was unique and extremely

attractive to him. Qing Shui was unsure if it was precisely her aloof nature that make Shi Qing Zhuang so appealing, after all, all men want things they cannot obtain.

“Although your current strength is sufficient to defeat that bunch of young masters earlier, you have to beware of future retaliation. After all, even though these members of the various great clans were not the cream of the crop, to citizens of Hundred Miles City, defeating all of them in a single go is equivalent to destroying their “face” and pride. I dare say that there will be many challengers looking out and causing trouble for you, for the sake of regaining their “face” again.”

After pondering for a moment, Qing Shui couldn't help but agree that this was troublesome indeed. If in the future, there were constant challengers pointing their swords at him, demanding a challenge, how would he have the time to pull out the weeds one by one. Although before that ruckus he caused, Qing Shui had already briefly thought about this, it seems that he had severely underestimate the implications.

“Elder sis, do you know, among the great clans, who has the strongest cultivation levels amongst the younger generations over here at Hundred Miles City?” Qing Shui knew that if his opponents wanted to regain their “face”, they would surely send their strongest in their younger generation to challenge him repeatedly. If he knew their strength, when he faced them, he could at least be prepared for it.

“You are pretty optimistic, to think that you could even ask this sort of question, seems like you are really confident. However, I

have to say that your strength is really beyond expectations. Looking at how young you are, I wonder how even trained to achieve your current level of strength. To answer your original question, there are two opponents you have to watch out for. Situ Luan from the Situ Clan, and Ding Lang from the Ding Clan. They are both amongst the 3rd generation, and they are about 30+ in age, as well as both of them having already broken through to the 2nd and 3rd Grade of Martial Commander.” Qing Shi Zhuang replied, as the slightest trace of worry could be heard in her tone.

Shi Qing Zhuang felt that the number of times she laughed today, had already far exceeded the total number of times she had laughed in 1 year. She too, could not help but to surreptitiously steal glances at this man in front of her, even though he was barely just a man.

After Qing Shui obtained the information from Shi Qing Zhuang, he finally let out a sigh of relief. Thank God, the cultivation of the strongest among the 3rd generations was still within his expectations. The 2nd generation genius, Qing He of the Qing Clan, had similar level of strength during his 30s as well. Without knowing why, Qing Shui unconsciously felt that currently, he was capable of clashing directly with opponents who were at the 2nd and 3rd grade of the Martial Commander Realm.

“Thank you for your information, you know what, elder sis, you should smile more in the future. You are like a blooming rose, you look so dazzling when you smile, there is no exaggeration when I say that your beauty is even capable of causing kings to forfeit their empires.” Qing Shui continued teasing Shi Qing Zhuang, as the reddish tinge on Shi Qing Zhuang’s face got more and more rosy.

“Little brat, do you want to get beaten up!” After saying that, Shi Qing Zhuang extended her fist, and gently knocked it against Qing Shui’s shoulder while furiously blushing. This was the first time she had executed such a gesture comparable to a little girl.

Qing Shui kept smiling like an idiot, as he happily allowed Qing Shi Zhuang to knock him down. There wasn’t even any sensation of pain, all he could think about was Shi Qing Zhuang blushing, and that dazzling smile of hers, which had already been firmly embedded in his mind. There were two types of women that could make a man happy. First, an incomparably ravishing beauty, that was capable of toppling kingdoms. Second, adorable women. A woman was beautiful because of how cute she was to you. Shi Qing Zhuang obviously belonged to the first category, if she could just act a little more adorably, then there was no doubt that she would drive men everywhere mad.

“Anyway, I’m already an adult and no longer a child, so you must remember to treat me like an adult alright.” Seriousness was apparent in his eyes, as he said to Shi Qing Zhuang.

All men in their lifetime, would probably have flirted before with the opposite sex. The main point was that even though you could ask for an yard after obtaining an inch, you must know when to stop. If it was too overly done, the girl would only feel turn off and be driven away.

“Okay, I have to leave now, you better take care of yourself, little adult!” A light laughter rang out as Shi Qing Zhuang was leaving. The sound of that laughter was akin to a demonic charm,

constantly revolving around his brain, unable to dissipate.

“So beautiful, you are going to be mine in the future!” Qing Shui only had this thought at this moment. He had never wanted anything so much before. So this was what people called “Longing”, and “Desire”.

There were many types of longings and desires, including: riches, power, women. They could be a source of motivation, but if one was controlled by their desires, then they would only end up in a pitiable situation.

“If you are free, you could always come to visit me at the Qing Clan’s Medical Store, I will be sure to make you happy.” Qing Shui called out after Shi Qing Zhuang’s retreating figure. Despite the few short moments he spent with her, he had never felt so blissful before in his life, and there was no telling when would their next meet up be. As such, Qing Shui was reluctant to let Shi Qing Zhuang leave just like this.

Maybe Shi Qing Zhuang could hear the sincerity in Qing Shui’s voice, she unexpectedly nodded her head before she left. That beautiful back view of hers could be compared to butterflies fluttering about among the flowers.

With a spring in his step, Qing Shui decided to return back to the Qing Clan’s Medical Store. Unknowingly, it was already noon. As he returned back the store, to his surprise, he found Qing Yi, his 3rd uncle and aunty, Qing Shan and Qing Shi all waiting for him, gazing at him with a strange light in their eyes.

“Qing Shui, did you really use the sword forms from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> to defeat Situ Bu Fan and his cronies?”

AST: Chapter 58 – The Secret of Situ Luan

“Qing Shui, did you really use the sword forms from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> to defeat Situ Bu Fan and his cronies?”

Qing Yi’s happiness was tinged with astonishment as she inquired. After all, Qing Yi was familiar with the bunch of youths which Qing Shui had defeated, and thus knew of their strength level. She could not help but to feel pride. The proudest moment of a mother was when her child truly shined with impressiveness. This was the most gratifying, as well as the most touching of all moments.

“Right, you all should not look down on the <<Basic Sword Techniques>>, hidden within them were foundations that would grant you a deeper understanding on the way of the sword!” Qing Shui seriously replied, as it was true.

“Qing Shui, how did you manage to do it? Among those people you defeated there was one named Shi Zong Yao whom I known personally. His strength is nothing to sneeze at.” 3rd Uncle Qing Hu furrowed his brows in suspicion as he asked.

“Actually, there is really no secret. You guys know the various sword forms listed out in the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> right? Of all the sword forms, the piercing form was the one with the fastest speed. I practiced that form over hundreds of millions of times, to the extent that I had even lost count of the amount, and gained some enlightenment regarding the “truth” of the sword. I believe that if others trained the same way as me, perfecting a simple move over hundreds of millions of times, he too would be

able to gain the same enlightenment as I did.” Qing Shui felt that there was no need to keep this a secret. After all, how many were like him, and could squander time in training just a simple sword movement. How many would have heaven-defying time dilation artifacts to help them do so?

Everyone was dumbstruck by what Qing Shui had said. It took 10 years to polish your sword skills, this was what everyone knew. However, to think that the most simple sword techniques could have such a terrifying strength hidden within them after they were honed countless times. What a change of perspective... How much willpower did the sword user need? Everyone’s gaze was filled with awe and respect when they gazed upon Qing Shui.

A radiant smile blossomed on Qing Yi’s face as she ruffled Qing Shui’s hair, while complex emotions rose in her heart. She felt that Qing Shui was growing increasingly mysterious. The surprises that Qing Shui had given her, had far exceeded all her expectations. She could not help but feel impressed by the ancient old man who had taught Qing Shui.

A certain luxurious room in Hundred Miles City!

A stalwart, strongly-built man dressed in gaudy robes was reclining on a comfortable bed while beside him, a scantily-clad busty woman with a towel covering her, was giving the young man a massage.

The woman had a head full of long black hair with milky-white skin, a willowy waist and a charming appearance. Her ears, small and slightly curved were extremely attractive.

An hour passed as the moans grew louder and louder in intensity when suddenly, there was only silence. The man coldly smiled, as he roused his body and exited the room.

The man followed the corridor outside the room as he descended the stairs. This was an independent luxurious courtyard, as the owners seemed to spare no expenses in designing it. Red carpets were laid out everywhere, from the corridors to the main hall, and it looked to be suitable for keeping a mistress in a splendid abode.

As the man entered the great hall, his handsome visage immediately transformed from a look filled with pain and anguish, to exhibiting supreme confidence. All the males in the great hall stood up and greeted him as they walked in front of the man.

“Brother Luan is still the strongest among us.” A skinny and weak looking youth started to bootlick as he extended a thumbs up gesture to the man named Brother Luan.

The man called Brother Luan, was filled with a lascivious smile. This smile, was something that all males understood.

The man called Brother Luan was none other than Situ Luan from the Situ Clan, the strongest amongst the younger generation. He appeared to be at ease while joking and laughing around with his band of brothers, yet his heart was heavy as he heard their

praises.

“Brother Luan, that youth from the Qing Village earlier, had trounced your younger brother as well as Shi Zong Yao earlier.” A strongly built youth with a build comparable to a tiger’s back and bear’s waist spoke.

“Ding Chen, wasn’t your younger brother Ding Xing also among those defeated?” After Situ Luan and the rest sat down, a young lady quickly served them tea.

The teacups were all made from purple sand, which showcased the wealth of the Situ Clan. This group of people gathered were all profligate sons of the rich, or disciples from the large clans. Every meal they had was filled with mouth-watering delicious food in abundance. They ate well while playing with women extensively.

“Hehe!” Ding Chen laughed embarrassedly.

“Ding Chen, keeping a low profile won’t do you any good. Don’t tell me you really want that fellow Ding Lang to succeed the Ding Clan as the Clan Head? So what you are not the eldest grandson? You can still create beneficial situations for yourself, blackening Ding Lang’s reputation and forcing him out of the Ding Clan.” Despite Ding Chen looking honest and upright, Situ Luan knew that hidden underneath that idiotic facade, was a ruthless and cold-blooded man.

“The time is not right yet, let’s wait for a while more, when that time comes, Brother Luan must lend me a helping hand!” Ding

Chen continued laughing.

Ever since Situ Luan injured the lower part of his body during cultivation, he had tried all remedies and sought the opinions of countless doctors but to no avail. All his hopes were dashed into pieces, no matter how charming or attractive a woman is, it was still useless to him! Under a fit of rage, he killed all the doctors he had consulted, leaving only himself who knew the secret.

After which, he spent all his efforts in focusing on his cultivation, but his previous girlfriend knew about this. So he had no choice but to use underhanded methods to lure her over, threatening her to kill her whole family. Without a choice, his ex girlfriend could only comply, and suffered... death for all her efforts.

“Does Ding Lang knows about this?” Situ Luan questioned as he cast a sidelong glance at Ding Chen.

“He knows, but he had never once shown any inclination to bother with our affairs. How would he ever think highly of this group of people!” Ding Chen said as complex emotions colored his tone.

“Hmmph, that fellow always had his head up in the air, in the future when he dies, I’m afraid he won’t even know what killed him.” Situ Luan coldly exclaimed.

“Outsiders have already climbed on top of our head, after all, Ding Lang is the representative of all the younger generations in Hundred Miles City. We should do nothing, and see how long he

can endure this humiliation.”

These people here were all members of the great clans of Hundred Miles City. Ding Chen was from the Ding Clan, his only motive in befriending Situ Luan, was for Situ Luan to help him to dispose of Ding Lang.

Qing Shui in the Qing Clan’s Medicinal Store, was busy with his own affairs. He was not even the slightest bit of concerned regarding the bunch of good for nothings that he had defeated. As long as they don’t come to look for him for trouble, Qing Should could care less for the things they did. Even if they were to rob the stores in public or murder someone in broad daylight, it was still none of his business. After all, Qing Shui was not that kind, he was not Jesus.

During the night, Qing Shui entered into the realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He thought of the two treasures which he had stored in his spatial realm earlier that day as he searched the crystal pond before retrieving the black-colored tree branch that was filled with spiritual power. Despite observing for almost half a day, he was not able to tell what it could be used for, and eventually he decided to plant the tree branch in the soil near the Energy Enhancing Tree and he poured some of the water from the crystal pond over it.

As for the iron essence, he placed it on the wet soil near the crystal pond as he sat down cross-leggedly in preparation for his cultivation. Other than assiduously enduring the backlash from

the failure of breaking through to the 49th cycle, Qing Shui would use the time after he failed, to train in his Ghostly Steps, Solitary Rapid Fist, Hidden Weapons Technique and the sword forms from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> too.

Qing Shui hope that he would soon be able to step into the 4th Heavenly Layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!

AST: Chapter 59 – Qing Shui's Lust

Qing Shui would always stay in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal till the last second, before he was forcibly ejected by it. With such a rare treasure, he did not want to even waste a single iota of time!

For the past few days, there were no movement from the younger generations of Hundred Miles City. Qing Shui was pleasantly surprised, although he found it somewhat bizarre, but he was not going to waste his time contemplating the reason behind it. He spent his time fully focused on cultivating and brushing up on his knowledge on the various spiritual herbs he had transplanted into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Now, in his spatial realm, there was already a large patch of vegetation. Greens, yellows, reds, different colors wove together forming a pretty sight, akin to a tourist attraction in the once barren land of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

The spiritual herbs were no longer mere seedlings, with the spatial realm's time dilation effect aiding their growth, they were exhibiting a vigorous sense of vitality. From Qing Shui's estimation, other than the time dilation effect, he strongly believed that the mystical water from the crystal pond which seemed to be saturated with boundless spiritual qi, also had something to do with it.

From the experience he gained within Hundred Medicinal Garden, he learned that there would always be spiritual herbs that withered and died off. However, much to his surprise he judged

that the vigorous sense of vitality being emitted seemed to indicate that the herbs he transplanted here into the spatial realm wouldn't wither and die off.

Looking at the huge patch of greenery, Qing Shui could feel a calmness in his heart. It was as if he had been emboldened by the growth of the herbs, and confidence in his knowledge. He had something to depend on, comparable to those rich youths from the large clans.

Actually, this huge source of wealth, would need at least 10 years before they fully matured. 10 years on the outside meant 1,000 years in the spatial realm. A huge patch of spiritual herbs that have aged 1,000 years, how would anyone be able to produce such a large volume of herbs? Just thinking about it caused Qing Shui to be filled with endless yearning and excitement.

He shouldn't count chickens before they hatch. Shaking his head to clear his mind of his yearning, Qing Shui went over to inspect the black-colored tree branch which he had planted in the soil earlier. He discovered that other than the branch's surface becoming more sleek and moist, there were no other changes. Furrowing his brows, he decided to continue leaving it in the soil and watering it. Qing Shui was unsure if this black-colored tree branch or tree root would be able to even germinate or bear flowers or fruits.

The business of the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store was relatively slow-paced, not very busy. The majority of their clients were mainly the pharmacies and spiritual herbs store owners of Hundred Miles City, who would come over to purchase

ingredients.

Other than the store owners, there were also citizens from Hundred Miles City who were sick and sought medical aid. Besides these two types of customers, they also had customers who wanted to purchase rarer herbs that could not be found in other spiritual herb stores or pharmacies.

Other than selling spiritual herbs, the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store also built up their supply by planting their own herbs and buying them from others as well. A part of their supply also came from people who went up the mountains to gather herbs, or those who had cultivated the herbs themselves. Of course, the prices for buying the herbs were substantially lower than their selling price, as the Qing Clan would still need to further process the herbs before it became a refined product which would then be sold off.

Other than that, the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store also had a trading agreement with Heavenly River City. They would usually cart over rare and valuable herbs that Heavenly River City was lacking in exchange for rare and valuable herbs that Hundred Miles City was lacking. It was a win-win situation!

Speaking of the Heavenly River City, Qing Shui had been involuntarily reminded of Lan Yan`er, the woman that his cousin Qing Hu had incessantly yearned for. Although Lan Yan`er had completed her puberty, having the figure of a full-grown woman and was indeed charming, he could not help but feel that she still nothing but a child.

Qing Shui had always felt that this woman was nothing but

trouble.

The reason why the Qing Clan could have a trading agreement with Heavenly River City, a city that was even larger and more prosperous than Hundred Miles City by many times, was because the Qing Clan had an extremely close relationship with the Hua Clan from Heavenly River City!

The clan leader for the Hua Clan once had his life saved by Qing Luo. The relationship between him and Qing Luo was extremely close, and as they hit it off, they decided to become sworn brothers. Back then, they did not inquire too much about each other's background, they only knew that one was from Heavenly River City, and the other was from Qing Village.

Only much later, when they had visited each other during festive occasions, did Qing Luo discover that his sworn brother Hua Sui Yun was from the Hua Clan, which was one of the most wealthy clans in Heavenly River City, and was now the current clan leader of the Hua Clan.

Although the Hua Clan could be considered a powerful clan in Heavenly River City, there were still plenty of other clans which exceeded them in status and power. After all, the likes of Heavenly River City was not something Hundred Miles City could be compared to.

Qing Shui heard Qing Yi say that recently the Hua Clan's Clan Leader, Hua Sui Yun, had managed to break through to the fabled realm of Xiantian, further cementing the Hua Clan's status in Heavenly River City. To think that back then, his strength was

equivalent to Qing Luo, but now there was a world of difference between them.

Xiantian and Houtian, one was the heavens and the other was earth. Qing Luo was at the peak of Houtian, at the 10th grade of the Martial Commander Realm. As long as he could manage to take just that tiny step forward, stepping into the doorway of the Xiantian realm, he would instantly transform from a sparrow to a phoenix. Although it was such a pity, after all in the World of the Nine Continents there were plenty of those with the same cultivation level as Qing Luo. How could it be so easy to take that final step? The estimated probability of being able to step into the Xiantian realm, was not even 1 out of 10,000!

Ever since Hua Sui Yun had broken through to the Xiantian realm, he had left all handling of the clan's matters to his son. He repeatedly reiterated that in the future, regardless how trivial the matter that the Qing Clan needed help with, the Hua Clan must do their utmost to help. As a result, the trade agreement came about, and most of the money made flowed into the coffers of the Qing Clan.

The relations between both clans were extremely close. Hua Sui Yun had long treated Qing Yi as his very own daughter. Thus, the business dealings between the Qing Clan and the Hua Clan were both handled by Qing Yi.

“Mother, in the future when you visit Heavenly River City, could you bring me along? I want to see the sights of Heavenly River City!” Qing Shui excitedly exclaimed after learning the details of the connections that existed between their two families.

“Okay, I shall introduce Grandpa Yun to you!” Qing Yi smilingly replied.

“Right, by the way, this spiritual herb was in the recent batch that they sent over from Heavenly River City. What kind of spiritual herb is this?” Qing Shui was trembling with excitement. Although he roughly knew the answer to his question, he still decided to inquire about it for confirmation.

“This is the Four-Leaf Flower. This spiritual herb only grows in the Heavenly River Valley of Heavenly River City. Although it looks ordinary, the effects and benefits contained within are tremendous. This is one of the crucial ingredients when concocting a panacea medicine for serious illnesses, and in all of Hundred Miles City, only the Qing Clan possess this herb.”

“As expected, it was the Four-Leaf Flower. Qing Shui was very excited, as though he was meeting an old friend. He had finally found something familiar in this world!” Qing Shui, held the Four-Leaf Flower in his hands, and inspected it closely.

“Four-Leaf Flower, this was one of the most trashy spiritual herbs when Qing Shui was playing [Western Fantasy], back in his previous world. To think that it was considered a valuable resource here in Hundred Miles City. Despite this, he was unsure of which grade the Four-Leaf Flower fell under. All he knew was that for spiritual herbs ranked 3rd grade and above only alchemists were able to concoct pills from them.”

Qing Yi would visit Heavenly River City twice a year. Every journey would take at least a month. The first visit was at the beginning of the year, and the second was during the autumn season. Qing Yi had only recently returned from her visit to Heavenly River City, and the time until the next trip was about a half a year.

“Mother, do you know which are the strongest clans residing here in Hundred Miles City?” Qing Shui asked while helping Qing Yi to store the batch of spiritual herbs from Heavenly River City.

“On the surface, the strongest clans here are: Shi Clan, Situ Clan, Yu Clan, Ding Clan. But as for those legendary cultivators from the Xiantian realm, no one knows how many are there. But how many of those Xiantian cultivators would willingly remain here at such a small city? The larger and more powerful cities are all offering unimaginable wealth and benefits to attract the Xiantian cultivators to join them.” Qing Yi slowly explained.

“That boss of Yu He Inn, whom you met earlier is someone who belongs to the Yu Clan!” Qing Yi, with laughter apparent on her face, continued saying, while memories of Yu He pinching Qing Shui’s cheek floated up in her mind.

“Oh!” Thoughts unexpectedly rose of that cheeky young lady that was slightly older than him, the one who kept teasing him earlier. Her figure was perfectly proportioned, with well rounded breasts that were not overly huge. Her slender frame had just the right amount of flesh which would be best for hugging close during sleep at night. That slightly matured face, which had a hint of mischievousness in those charming eyes that was greatly arousing.

Such flavor, of course he had to sample it.

Qing Shi Zhuang was cold and aloof, while Yu He had a touch more grace and flirtatious manner. One was a ice princess while the other could only be described as a naughty kitten.

It takes a 100 years of karma and fate to be able to meet on the same boat, while a 1,000 years of karma and fate is needed to share the same pillow. Hehehe, meeting me is equivalent to a 1,000 years of karma and fate, both of them should not think of running away. Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he fantasized about hugging these two perfect specimens of woman to sleep every night, making his heart itch with anticipation as if he couldn't wait to rush over to push them down.

Qing Yi, who was standing beside him was bewildered by the sudden change in expression of Qing Shui, while she suddenly felt a strong urge rising to kick her son.

AST: Chapter 60 – The Dao of Money Making

“Are the relationships between the four great clans harmonious?” Qing Shui asked. In his mind he didn’t think that they would be, after all, the four clans are direct competitors against each other in Hundred Miles City!

“The relations between the four great clans, are bound together for good or ill, seemingly like grasshoppers competing with each other while standing on a string. Despite their intense rivalry, there are also inter-clan marriage engagements between the four clans. An example, from the current generation it would be Situ Bu Fan from the Situ Clan and Shi Qing Zhuang from the Shi Clan. Thus, the relationship between the four clans could only be described as kinship, but with a touch of enmity embedded within.

“No wonder Shi Qing Zhuang couldn’t be bothered with Situ Bu Fan, after all, it was an arranged marriage. Could her cold personality stem from this?” Qing Shui, knew that Shi Qing Zhuang had already left a extremely deep impression in his heart. Try as he might, there was no way he would be able to forget about her. As such, he was extremely concerned with everything that had to do with Shi Qing Zhuang.

“Could the economic strength wielded by the clans in the Qing Village that are doing business here in Hundred Miles City, be compared the the economic strength of the four great clans?” Qing Shui knew that other than his Qing Clan, there were also the Lan Clan, Tong Clan and Feng Clan who have businesses here at Hundred Miles City.

“No, even if all the clans in the Qing Village combined together, we would not be a match for any of the great clans in Hundred Miles City. Despite this, your grandpa is still someone at the peak of Houtian. Even if they ignore this fact, they would still have to be careful not to antagonize us any further than necessary as they also know about the relationship between our Qing Clan and the Hua Clan of Heavenly River City.” Qing Yi explained.

“You don’t have to worry about the older generations of the four clans, they would not have the guts to deal with you. But still, you have to be careful of the schemes of those from the younger generations. Especially, Situ Luan from the Situ Clan as well as Ding Lang from the Ding Clan. They are extremely strong. Both of them have talent comparable to your 2nd uncle, and have a high possibility of stepping into the peak of Houtian, by the age of 40.”

Qing Shui already expected this much. He knew that the reason Qing Yi was telling him all this was because she was worried for him. Showing a carefree expression, Qing Shui smiled lightly as he reassured Qing Yi.

Qing Yi felt that something was off with Qing Shui, as if he had some secrets that he was not sharing with her. For no reason at all, this child of her seemed to be filled with boundless confidence, as if he was a totally different person. If it were not for the fact that blood runs thick and she could feel a connection with Qing Shui, she would surely have suspected that the person in front of her was a stranger.

Recently Qing Shui felt that making money was a good thing, but the him now could only be considered extremely poor. All his

future riches would be generated from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal but... that was in the future. Now, even if he wanted to buy things from the streets, he would have no capital to do so. Not to mention that the memories he unlocked earlier, all those jewelery cutting, jewelry smithing techniques were all useless if he could not even purchase the raw materials.

Still, things were not as bad as they seemed on the surface. He would only need to wait a few more years to rake in the money with the help of the time-dilation effect of his spatial realm. The problem is right now! I can't open my mouth and ask for money from Mother every time right? She had just given me a 100 taels of silver just two days ago!" Before this, Qing Shui had no concept of money, after all, he had been living in the Qing Clan, where all his needs had been catered for. Now that he had arrived in Hundred Miles City, he began to understand the value of money. A banknote of 100 taels, was sufficient to feed a family of five for half a month. You could even visit the "Night Fragrance Court" (brothel) to enjoy the services of their top class escorts for a single night.

As he strolled, Qing Shui begin to think of ways of making money. Walking around aimlessly on the streets of the prosperous Hundred Miles City meant time passed quickly, and it was already evening in the blink of an eye. The atmosphere on the streets in the Hundred Miles City was always lively. In the surroundings, there were the voices of sellers trying to attract potential customers over, while crowds of people swamped the streets. This was not chaotic, but instead it made it easier for one to adapt to the lively atmosphere of the city. As he wandered, Qing Shui suddenly came to a stop. On the side of the street, there was an old granny as

well as a cute little girl seemingly selling three large buckets of water.

Qing Shui noticed this duo because they were very striking among the swathes of vendors on the streets. The old granny who was missing an arm, was accompanied by a little girl approximately the age of 10. Even though the clothes worn by the little girl were somewhat worn, they were not filled with dirt or stains and were extremely clean. With a pair of bright eyes flitting about that were filled with curiosity, and long eyelashes that were blinking constantly, she was extremely adorable. However, from judging from the hard-set of her cherry small mouth, one could tell how obstinate the girl could be.

With his interest piqued, Qing Shui approached the three large water buckets, only to see that contained within them, was 10 over thumb-sized little black fishes as well as a few baby river turtles. As Qing Shui squatted down to inspect closer, he could see the hope-filled gaze apparent in the eyes of the little girl.

Qing Shui felt bitterness invading his heart. He was neither a good man nor an evil man. He never had any intention to rescue all of the people who were suffering in this world. Although he could still do his best if he encountered any who truly needed his help.

Qing Shui had always wanted to test and see if the mystical water from the crystal pond was capable of sustaining the growth of animals... Seems like the opportunity to do so has come.

“Little sister, can you tell me the prices for these fishes and turtles?” Qing Shui asked with a gentle expression in his eyes.

The little girl adorably blinked her eyes as she continued to stare at Qing Shui, “Big Brother, you are not lying right? Do you really want to buy them?”

All of the little fishes and turtles were caught by the little girl using a small net. Since the size of the merchandise was too small to be eaten, the little girl suggested for her granny to set up a store, trying to sell them as pets instead.

“Yup, of course I want to, night is soon approaching, don’t you want to go back and rest with your granny?” Qing Shui laughed lightly.

“All these were caught by Ni`er from the creekside, if big brother wants them, Ni`er could show you the location for catching the fishes and turtles, there is no need to spend money on them!” That young lady named Ni`er exclaimed seriously, with a touch of innocence in her eyes, as she smiled, revealing her two adorable tiger teeth. [1]

“Oh, but I specifically want the fishes and turtles you have here. Can big brother combine the 3 buckets of water into one and pay you two taels of silver for them?” After he finished his sentence, Qing Shui directly poured the contents of the two other water buckets, combining them into one, as he withdrew the last of his money and passed the two taels of silver over to that little girl.

“Big brother... Two taels of silver is too much, these fishes and turtles are not so expensive....” The little girl frantically waved her

hands in disagreement, as she took a step backwards.

Qing Shui, found that his liking of the personality of this little girl grew by the second, as he smiled and replied, “Silly girl, big brother says it is worth that much. Take it, go buy something good for your granny to eat.”

The little girl hesitated for a long while, before gradually accepting: “Big brother, what is your name, how can I find you?”

“My name is Qing Shui, if you want to look for big brother, just go to the Qing Clan’s Medical Store. Little sister, if you need any help, no matter how big or small, you can look for me, got it?” Qing Shui patted Ni`er on her head as he continued smiling.

“Okay, I’ve got it, big brother!”

After which, Qing Shui saw the little girl holding the two empty buckets of water with one hand while supporting her granny with the other, slowly leaving the streets. But after the little girl took a few steps, she turned her head back and gazed at Qing Shui, with a wide smile breaking out on her face, revealing her adorable tiger teeth once again.

The setting sun caused their shadows to be lengthened, before their silhouettes finally disappeared from the streets.

After that, Qing Shui walked to a remote location, and entered into his spatial realm while holding the bucket of water,

containing the fishes and turtles which he just bought. Walking to the center of the crystal pond, he first released a little turtle into the water.

“Hmm” Qing Shui gazed at the little river turtle swimming about in the water, after a short moment, the turtle appear to be seemingly more energetic and agile than before.

Qing Shui was extremely excited, the effect of the time-dilation seemed even better for rearing animals than herbs. Especially for fishes, he would just need to rear them in the crystal pond for three days before they are ready to be ate.

His eyes grew bright as a sudden thought flashed past in his brain. This was it! This was the way to grow rich! I just need a supply of these small fishes. Hehehehe, I better think of a good explanation, if not there would certainly be people suspicious.

AST: Chapter 61 – Salivating

Shaking his head, Qing Shui threw caution to the winds, as he released all the remaining little fishes and river turtles into the crystal pond. He hoped that the mystical properties of the crystal water which was infused with boundless spiritual energy would somehow be able to evolve them.

With a huge grin plastered on his face, Qing Shui cackled while rubbing his hands in glee. He knew that in the near future, these little fishes and river turtles would be his source of income.

Qing Shui cultivated inside the spatial realm, while observing the growth of the little fishes and river turtles, after about three days, he noticed from his experiments that not only the sizes of the fishes and turtles grew a lot bigger, they seemed to be brimming with vitality, even emitting a imperceptible black shine in their eyes, as if they had somehow gained intelligence. This discovery caused Qing Shui to be dumbstruck. If this was the truly the case, after 10 years in the spatial realm, wouldn't they evolve into demonic beasts?

However, he suddenly paused as he felt that something was off. "Hmm not right, after all, how could the lifespan of fishes and prawns exceed that of 100 years? Only turtles would be able to have such a long lifespan."

As he stepped out of the spatial realm, the neurons in his brains were rapidly firing. Qing Shui needed to think of a way to maximise his profits, and to keep this a secret. The best way to do so, was to actually rear fishes, prawns, crabs and turtles in the

pond inside the Hundred Medicinal Garden.

Now, there was a fiery blaze in Qing Shui's heart. Only when there was a goal, would there be motivation. The glow in Qing Shui's eyes shone brighter and brighter as he envisioned various scenarios as he try to find a solution to his problems. Unknowingly, it was already night time when he returned back to the Qing Clan's Medicinal Store.

“Qing Shui, you are back, we were all waiting for you to have dinner together. Today, aunty Qing Yi cooked her best dishes – grilled fish, as well as your favourite turtle nourishment soup!” Qing Shi excitedly exclaimed, not noticing that Qing Shui's face turned a shade paler at the mention of his favourite soup.

However, at this exact moment, it was as though a switch flipped on in his mind. “This was it! An opening that I can use, damn it I'm a genius!”

“Mother, are the ingredients expensive?” Qing Shui asked while gesturing to the grilled fish and turtle soup.

“Yes, they are even more expensive compared to some of the prices for beast meat. It is not ideal to rear species of fishes in the Hundred Miles City, and as such, most of the supply came from external sources. As for turtles, they grow too slowly to be sold as a commodity, even if you want to hunt them in the wild, turtles are relatively rare. “

“Perhaps the environment in Hundred Miles City is unable to

support rearing of species of sea creatures?”

“No, not unable to support, but the time it takes to rear them is too long, hence, the supply for Hundred Miles City come from external sources.”

“Mother, I wish to try rearing some fishes in the pond in our Hundred Medical Garden.”

Qing Yi was puzzled, didn't she just explained the difficulties of rearing fishes? Why would Qing Shui still be interested in the prospect? Her son was getting increasingly mysterious indeed.

“Hehe, Mother, don't you worry, I can guarantee that the fishes I rear, would definitely be better than those you bought outside.” Qing Shui smiled, looking straight at Qing Yi, with a very honest expression in his eyes.

The following day, Qing Yi passed banknotes worth 300 taels of silver to Qing Shui, giving him the authority to do what he deemed necessary. Qing Yi grinned happily, it seems like Qing Yi was still the one who knew him best.

As he wandered the streets, looking for more live fishes to buy, he suddenly thought of the words Ni`er said to him. Qing Shui's eyes gleamed with excitement as he rushed off to the creekside which Ni`er had mentioned.

The golden dusk creek, was the creek near the valley of a nearby

mountain. Although it was very wide, the water level was shallow. It was relatively near the outskirts of Hundred Miles City. Travelling on foot, the distance was still reachable after 15 minutes of brisk walking.

The water level was only knee deep, and the water was extremely clear. One could see numerous water species such as little fishes, shrimps, crabs and even turtles. However, they were not homebred, and the largest size of the creatures, was even smaller than the size of a palm.

“Ai! Isn’t that Ni`er?” Qing Shui spotted Ni`er together with two other kids that were similar size to her, holding on to their small little fishing nets.

“Ni`er!” Qing Shui shouted.

The little girl turned her head back, as an adorable smile broke out as she ran over.

“Big brother, why are you here?” Ni`er stared at Qing Shui as she blinked her eyelashes curiously.

“Big brother, do you need more fishes and turtles? Is that why you are here today?” Ni`er excitedly pulled on Qing Shui’s hand as she led him towards the two other kids.

“Let me ask more of my friends to help fulfil big brother’s request! This way, the speed would be faster.”

Qing Shui was moved after hearing how enthusiastic Ni'er was in helping him.

“Okay little sister, just ask all your friends to help, I will pay 10 copper coins per bucket of water is that okay?” Qing Shui offered a price that was about 5x time higher than the normal cost.

“Big Brother, the price is too high, just a copper coin or two would do.” Ni'er frantically refused Qing Shui's offer.

“Be obedient, listen to big brother, even though big brother is not rich, I won't ill treat you guys.”

After hearing Qing Shui's assurance, Ni'er smiled happily as she ran off, gathering her friends.

After a short while, Ni'er brought along 10 others, and spent about half a day catching countless little fishes,prawns and turtles.

Qing Shui felt his heart soften looking at how hard these poor kids are working. In the end, he gave them a tael of silver for each water bucket that was filled with sea creatures

Now that Qing Shui was more accustomed the concept of money in this world, he knew that a tael of silver was roughly equivalent to \$100 in his previous world!

After half a day more, over 20 buckets of water were filled with sea creatures that the children caught. Entering into his spatial realm, Qing Shui poured in the contents of more than half of the 20 buckets into the crystal pond.

The children should really be rewarded for their efforts. Qing Shui was extremely pleased with the results of the catch. For the species of fishes, there were many varieties. Blackfish, grass carp and catfish were the majority while other fish species constituted a minority. For the turtle species, there were only a single variety – black turtles.

Qing Shui took a long wooden shaft, and balanced the remaining eight buckets of water on it, before rapidly exiting his spatial realm, hurrying back to the Qing Clan's Medical Store. Balancing four buckets on each side, Qing Shui hurried to the pond located inside the Hundred Medicinal Garden. Contained within each bucket, was water from the crystal pond. To increase their rate of growth, Qing Shui had replaced the sea water with water from the crystal pond before slipping the sea creatures back into it.

On the way there, Qing Shui met Qing Shi, who giggled uncontrollably after witnessing how anxious Qing Shui looked. His laughter drew the attention of Yuan Ying and Qing Yi, who looked over smiling kindly at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui, ignoring Qing Shi, hurriedly made his way to the pond before awkwardly releasing all the sea creatures from the eight buckets into it. He hope that his guess was right, the spiritual qi-imbued water would be able to somehow stimulate the growth.

Only after he completed that, did he feel secure in his heart. The next step, was to look for a business partner to sell them the live ingredients. Involuntarily, memories of Yu He Inn floated up in his mind. That turtle soup and that cheeky young woman. Especially that cheeky young woman, Qing Shui found himself wanting to interact with her.

As he lost himself in his fantasies, he could almost see Yu He. That look on her elegant looking face, that lithe and graceful body, decked out in the bikinis of his previous world, and that smile, filled with tantalizing promises, inching closer and closer to him. His heartbeat increased as he gulped, when suddenly...

“What are you thinking of you smelly brat, why are you salivating?!”

AST: Chapter 62 – Accidental Collision

“What are you thinking of you smelly brat, why are you salivating?!”

Qing Shui started, and hurriedly wiped his hands on the sides of his mouth, but there were no traces of any saliva to be found. His actions were extremely comical, and caused Qing Yi to clutch her stomach as she burst into laughter.

Qing Shui stood beside Qing Yi, as he observed the fishes, prawns, crabs and turtles of different sizes swimming lazily in the pond. One day in his spatial realm was equivalent to a hundred days out here. Qing Shui’s plan was to interchangeably replace a portion of the fishes in the spatial realm with the fishes out here.

However, a day later an unexpected problem occurred. The black fishes of the earlier batch that were released into the crystal pond had grown larger and more ferocious. They actually started a feeding frenzy, and devoured the other smaller fishes. “....” To think that Qing Shui had considered so many aspects before implementing his plan, yet he overlooked something so simple.

Qing Shui depressedly sighed as he looked at the few remaining fishes and turtles inside the crystal pond. All these remaining fishes were the cream of the crop. It was unknown if the reason was because the black fishes were of the same species, so they cannibalised each other, or if it was because of some other factors. Despite all of this, the turtles were safe. It seems that the teeth of the black fishes were still unable to penetrate the defensive shells of the turtles.

Through the effects of the time-dilation, in the span of a few days the black fishes had already grown to be about a foot long. The black river turtles had grown to roughly the size of a palm. Strangely, while the black fishes became increasingly ferocious, the black river turtles became much more agile and nimble.

In the Hundred Medicinal Garden pond, Qing Shui slipped in some fishes and river turtles that he took from the spatial realm. Maybe it was the existence of the water lilies, or perhaps there were more varieties of sea creatures in this normal pond, or because the environment had changed, but the black fishes seemed to be less ferocious. They weren't showing any inclination to devour the other fishes now.

Cultivating, was always the main focus for Qing Shui. So the majority of the time spent inside the spatial realm, was used by Qing Shui to attempt to break through the barrier of the 48th cycle of circulated Qi. Despite Qing Shui being stuck at the 48th cycle, the years of relentless cultivating had already enlarged his energy channels and strengthened his bones and muscles by a large margin. After all, the Ancient Strengthening Technique was a technique that focused on the tempering of one's body. It was not surprising for Qing Shui to acquire other benefits despite being unable to break through. In addition, Qing Shui had a very strong intuition that once he broke through the 49th cycle of circulated Qi, he would at the very least be at the peak of Houtian.

The dreamless night passed swiftly. In the morning, as usual, Qing Shui would guide Qing Shi on the intricacies of the Solitary Rapid Fist. After breakfast, Qing Shui left the clan store, walking to a remote place before entering the spatial realm, and retrieved two

black fishes and transferred them into a half-filled water bucket. Qing Shui covered the water bucket with a lid, before slowly strolling the streets, making his way to the Yu He Inn. Of course, he did not forget to admire the sights of the pretty ladies out on the streets.

In no time at all he arrived at the Yu He Inn.

“Sir, are you alone?” A young girl, wearing a sexy waitress outfit, smiled professionally as she attended to Qing Shui.

No wonder the business of the Yu He Inn was so good! All the waitresses here, not only were they wearing the sexy outfits, they were all cream of the crop top-rated beauties! Previously when Qing Shui was here, he had focused his attention too much on Yu He, and did not have the chance to admire these beauties.

“Oh, I’m here to find your boss. You can just say my name is Qing Shui, she should be willing to meet me.” Qing Shui lightly smiled as he admired the beauty of this waitress.

“Alright, please wait for a moment.”

After the waitress left, Qing Shui, calmly and collectedly, without batting an eyelid, continued to feast his eyes on all the waitresses at the inn. Those tight outfits were sexy in the sense that they did not reveal everything. They only showed peeps of some of the crucial areas such as half of the bust area, the neck, shoulders, the knees. They invoked wanton desires, leaving little to the imagination. Especially the contours of their shapely bottoms,

snow white legs, and the shapes their bursting cleavage. These combination of factors would definitely entice men into visiting here even if the food sucked. In his previous world, Qing Shui knew that as long as you tipped the ladies, you could fondle them a little. However, he did not dare to try that here.

Those perky butts and long shapely legs, along with the snow white skin of the waitresses, caused Qing Shui to feel an itch in his heart.

“Are they nice looking?” A charming voice filled with magnetism whispered in Qing Shui’s ear.

“Extremely!” Qing Shui spontaneously blurted out. After which, he turned his head and saw Yu He staring at him with an expression that could only be described as smiling, but yet not a smile. “Shit!” Qing Shui glumped.

A graceful figure, decked in a white-colored female warrior attire gave Yu He a charming and holy feel. Oozing incomparable sex appeal, those plump red lips, and with that smile-yet-not-a-smile expression on her face, left Qing Shui slacked-jawed.

“Ehh, you are much better looking!” Qing Shui hurriedly exclaimed, albeit somewhat awkwardly.

Yu He glanced at Qing Shui with amusement twinkling in her eyes. Still, looking at his clear eyes, Yu He could feel that Qing Shui was being sincere. How adorable, to think that a hundred sentences of praises from other men could not be compared to one

sentence from this young man.

“Let’s go, today let elder sister treat you to a meal!” Yu He happily said.

“Okay, pass this to your chef, these are the raw ingredients for our meal today. It will definitely give you a surprise.” Qing Shui passed the small bucket of water over to Yu He.

Yu He suspiciously glanced at Qing Shui, before opening the lid of the water bucket. After which, she gasped slightly in shock. In the water, were two black fishes, seemingly filled with vitality. The luster of their scales, and brightness in their eyes... these were two top-grade quality fishes that couldn’t even be bought even if you had the money. However, she had a feeling that the reason behind Qing Shui’s visit, was nothing as simple as just eating a meal with her.

“Xinyue, pass this to Uncle Hong; get him to personally cook for us”.

Yu He passed the small bucket over to one of the waitresses as she instructed her.

“Let’s go, follow elder sister up” Yu He pulled Qing Shui by his hand as they ascended the stairs.

Qing Shui took his time, admiring that elegant and graceful figure of Yu He. With her walking in front, he could take his time

to enjoy admiring the light trembling of her shapely bottom as she ascended up the stairs.

Entranced by that vision, Qing Shui did not realize that Yu He had stopped. Lost in a daze, Qing Shui continued moving, and suddenly “Ploff”, the blissful sound of something ascending to the Nine Heavens rang out. Qing Shui had accidentally pressed his face, right into the shapely bottom of Yu He. In that instant, Qing Shui felt like he was floating. The feeling of that softness as well as the well-toned elasticity of the muscles, coupled with a sense of mind-numbing fragrance, stole his soul away. This left him in an overwhelmed state of ecstasy.

AST: Chapter 63 – Dining with a Beauty

Time momentarily seemed to stop, as Qing Shui unconsciously lingered in that awkward position, his hands automatically extended out and held Yu He by her waist. Unbidden, Qing Shui seemed to have lost all sense of conscious thought as his instincts took over. Gently, he began rubbing his nose and lips on the area of contact, mesmerised by the fragrance. He lamented the fact that a thin piece of smooth silky fabric was blocking him from ascending to the heavens.

“Hey, you smelly brat, that’s enough!” Yu He cried out frantically in a panic, momentarily shocked out of her wits with a slight hint of anger clouding her tone.

Qing Shui, stunned, embarrassedly removed his hands as he gradually inclined his head. Only to see a pair of ruddy red lips pursed in displeasure. Hints of cold anger could be seen from her eyes. “How beautiful” the thought was fleeting as it crossed Qing Shui’s mind before he recovered. He managed to stammer out “ummm it’s n...not my fault, you suddenly paused, so I bumped into you. It was an accident!” Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he avoided the eyes of Yu He. After a while, the fiery countenance of Yu He visibly softened. Who could manage to stay angry for long when Qing Shui was so adorable.

Yu He speechlessly looked at Qing Shui, and could not help thinking, “Is this little guy destined to be my bane? Even though he is younger than me, he could already be considered an adult. If it was some other guy who did that to me, I would have instantly crippled him...”

Yu He could not help lightly blushing at Qing Shui's actions. There was even a moment of unexplainable climatic excitement at the earlier contact.

Pausing to steady herself, Yu He said somewhat abashedly "Let's go, if you dare do that again, I'm going to castrate you."

Qing Shui, with his brilliant acting immediately assumed a submissive posture, and replied with puppy eyes, "No can do, I still want to get married and have kids in the future, so I still need my little bird."

"Enough, let's go. You only know how to take advantage of me. Still acting pure? Hmph, you must think that this elder sister's eyes have gone blind. Your acting is not bad, but not good enough. I'm going to ignore you from now on." The words of Yu He left Qing Shui flabbergasted. Even though it was true that he was normally a lusty guy, but he truly had no control about what happened earlier!

After which, they proceeded to the top level of Yu He Inn, and went to the chamber beside the room which the Qing Clan had dined in previously. The moment they entered the chamber, Qing Shui had a strong impression that this place belonged to a lady. There was a fluffy sofa that had space for three, a yellow table made of pineapple wood, wallpapers of blue skies and clouds and wooden panels for the floor. There was also a faint smell of orchids that permeated the whole room, giving off a refreshing feeling to the occupants. Yu He closed the door after they entered, as she lightly smiled to Qing Shui.

This chamber, possibly belonged to Yu He. Qing Shui deduced.

Turning his head back, he saw Yu He reclining on that fluffy white sofa. Her jade white skin when complemented with her white warrior attire, those beautiful black eyes set in that exquisite face, bordered on elegance almost to the point of nobility. That graceful and lithe figure that was leaning backwards made his blood boil in excitement.

Looking at the reaction Qing Shui had after glancing at her, Yu He could not help but smirk slightly. However that smirk was quickly gone from her face as rosy redness tinged her cheeks quickly after. Apparently, the memories of what happened earlier were still fresh in her mind. Qing Shui felt surprised at the reaction of Yu He, and to spare her from the embarrassment, he quickly changed the subject.

“Elder sis, can I peek inside your room?” Qing Shui already knew the answer, but still, he could not resist asking Yu He.

“No.” Yu He directly rejected the request. Indeed, her elegance mixed in with a touch of straightforwardness, gave off an extremely comfortable feeling to Qing Shui.

“Knock knock!”

“Come in.” Yu He stated, after hearing the knocking at the door.

Xinyue entered the room, bearing a large plate with a delicious smile wafting from it. Qing Shui knew that this should be the two black fishes that he brought earlier.

“Little missus, Uncle Hong could no longer control himself, and he had already eaten one of the fishes. If it was not for me reminding him of your orders, I’m afraid that there would be nothing left of the two fishes.”

After Xinyue set the plate down, Yu He invited her to try the fish out with them. After all, if Uncle Hong’s cooking skills were considered ranked 2nd in the whole of Hundred Miles City, then there would be no one who dared to say that they were ranked first.

“It’s okay, just now when Uncle Hong ate the first fish, he offered me some too. The taste was really beyond my expectations, both of us had never tasted something so scrumptious before.” Xinyue cheekily replied, before she ran off.

“This cheeky little brat!” Yu He smiled.

The atmosphere got slightly... weird. A guy and a girl, alone in one room, where the guy was just silently gazing at her. This caused Yu He to be slightly frantic because she could feel that the gaze used when Qing Shui was looking at her was akin to someone staring at his own woman. There were traces of doting, love, admiration and pride...

“What am I thinking about, he is just a little kid. After all, I’m

older than him by 10 years, why am I still fantasizing. In a few years time after I grow older and wrinkled, I bet he couldn't even bother to give me another look." Yu He silently berated herself.

Feeling hot in her cheeks, Yu He hurriedly said "Come, let us try Uncle Hong's cooking skills!" Yu He used her chopsticks and picked up a piece of fish meat, before elegantly placing it in her dainty mouth. Such graceful actions were very pleasing to the eye. Qing Shui had no inclination to eat, as he stared at Yu He. Merely watching her eating brought to him a sense of satisfaction that was filled with enjoyment.

"It is too delicious! When did Uncle Hong's cooking skills became so good? Even other famous chefs in this world, wouldn't be able to produce such a taste!"

All of a sudden, Yu He finally noticed Qing Shui was not eating, but still gazing at her idiotically. She knew that Qing Shui had come here with some other motives, but she was unable to figure out what he really wanted.

After contemplating, Yu He wasted no more time and began to dig in again. Qing Shui was extremely depressed when he saw that a third of the fish had already been finished by Yu He. How could he miss this chance to dine with a beautiful girl?

Coming to his senses, Qing Shui started devouring voraciously, akin to a ravenous wolf. While Yu He on the other hand, was still eating gracefully. The disparity between their eating styles was made even more obvious by the mess Qing Shui was making on his side of the table.

“Yummy!” Qing Shui rubbed his tummy.

Yu He glanced at Qing Shui with an expression that lay between amusement and suspicion. “You can go ahead and tell me the real reason why you are here today. Although I’ll admit that this fish is one of the best I’ve ever eaten, I don’t believe that is your only purpose in coming here today.”

“Hehe, I just wanted to be able to enjoy dinner with you. If there’s no beautiful ladies for company, no matter how heavenly the dish tastes like, it would still taste like ashes to me.”

“Silly kid, beautiful ladies floating left and right every time you open your mouth. Do you know what beautiful girls are for?” Yu He couldn’t help it, and teased Qing Shui.

“Beautiful girls are there to be cherished!”

AST: Chapter 64 – Have You Hugged Enough?

“Beautiful girls are there to be cherished!”

Yu He was stunned, as she stared strangely at Qing Shui. She only saw the clear eyes of Qing Shui looking back at her. Encompassed in his gaze, was accommodation and tender protectiveness. How could this young man already possess such a gaze. Other than that, from his eyes, she could see wisdom and foresight. There was also purpose, yet all of these qualities were also adorned with layers of gentleness. It was extremely attractive!

“Oh, so do you know how to cherish woman?” Yu He laughed, she felt extremely elated at this moment, but was uncertain why she felt this way. She only knew that she felt at peace in her heart, and a sense of security.

“I will do things for her, take over her burdens, protect her, and make her happy.” Qing Shui was caught unawares by Yu He sudden question. Without much time to think, he hurriedly blurted out a bunch of nonsensical stuff.

Yu He could not help but laugh at his inane replies. At this moment she felt that Qing Shui had a really pure heart. She felt that he would be a good husband to his future wife.

“If elder sis wants you to dote on me, would you do so?” Yu He continued teasing Qing Shui, and yet, it had some traces of seriousness hidden in it.

“Elder Sister Yu He should be one of the top few ravishing beauties in our country. I think the number of suitors you have would constitute almost half of the entire population. Are you serious that you need me to dote upon you?” Qing Shui glanced at Yu He seriously, and in his heart at this moment, he was thinking – If Yu He was serious, Qing Shui didn’t mind at all. After all, Yu He was exactly his type of tofu. A mature lady older than him by 10 years, yummy.

“Hehe, sister is just teasing you. Sigh... a woman like me, who would still want me, who would still cherish me?” Yu He bitterly smiled, as if there was something on her heart, as she glanced at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui did not reply, he knew that Yu He was from the Yu Clan, and had a high status. To say that Yu He truly fall in love with him? Only if Qing Shui’s brains were damaged, would he believe it. Maybe in her eyes, he was just a youngling, someone to tease, to laugh with. What she really needed was a strong man capable of protecting her.

The more beautiful a woman is, the more it was likely they would be surrounded by lecherous wolves [1]. There were two ways to get beautiful girls you desire. One, was both parties were willing. Second, to be so strong to the point where no one would dare to say a thing. A person with sufficient strength, would have millions of ways to break apart a loving couple, or could directly pressure the male party to leave.

“Okay, we should not be digressing so far from our main topic.

Qing Shui, elder sister should be able to guess your intentions for coming here today. Tell you what, as long as you are willing to provide the same type of fish that we ate earlier, whatever conditions you have, I would satisfy you.” Yu He blinked her beautiful lashes as she looked to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui laughed lightly, as he looked at Yu He, who was reclining lazily on the sofa. “A merchandise is only valuable if it is rare. This type of fish was bred using a special method, and there are a limited number of them. At most, I would be able to supply you with 10 of such fish per day. But, if beautiful ladies like yourself want to dine with me, then no matter how many of the fish you need, I would still be able to provide.”

“Only 10 such fishes everyday, although the amount is somewhat meagre, but still, I believe if I set the selling price at 100 taels of silver per fish, the customers would still be raving for more.” Yu He murmured to herself.

“You already know how delicious the fish tasted, and I can guaranteed that other than me, no other supplier would be able to provide this kind of fish. What we need now, is a good marketing strategy. Not to mention 100 taels, I believe even if it was sold for 1,000 taels, there would still be people willing to try!”

Yu He’s eyes flashed, “Wow, I didn’t think that a little brat like yourself would have a business-oriented mind too.”

Qing Shui almost fainted when he heard Yu He referring to him as a little brat. Feeling stabbing waves of depression assailing his heart, feeling wretched beyond measure.

This fish is reared by you?” Yu He randomly asked a question, while observing Qing Shui closely.

“This can be considered so I guess. However, if there are others who ask you this question, please keep my identity a secret. After all, this has a lot to do with money.” Qing Shui embarrassedly replied.

“Are you so lacking of money? Hehe, elder sister will not take advantage of you. How about 30% of the proceeds to you and 70% to me?”

Qing Shui gently smiled as he rejected the proposition. “It’s not that I’m lacking for money, I have no money! How about a 50/50 split of the proceeds? Let us earn money together.”

In the end, Yu He furrowed her brows as she considered, and eventually accepted the offer. Stalking forward like a tigress after her prey, she hugged Qing Shui. Qing Shui stood there mutely, dumbstruck by her actions. Her actions caused the virgin Qing Shui to float on cloud nine, as his mind blanked out.

“Happy partnership.” Yu He whispered in Qing Shui’s ear in the instant she hugged him.

That charming and magnetic voice, gently brushed past his ear. Qing Shui could feel himself blushing as his ears went red. This type of feeling was incomparably refreshing. After the initial awkwardness, Qing Shui quickly recovered, and only joy

remained.

“Happy partnership!” Qing Shui replied, and initiated the hug this time around just as Yu He was retreating, while a nefarious fire burned in his lower region.

Shock suffused the features of Yu He as she gasped. Never did she think that Qing Shui would be so daring. Although Qing Shui was 10 years younger, he was still already considered a man. However, in that embrace of his, Yu He did not show any signs of anger or rejection.

When observing Yu He at such a close distance, Qing Shui was in awe. Her beauty was capable of stirring the souls of men. Looking at her delicate face, and limpid eyes akin to the beauty of valuable gemstones, Yu He appeared like a celestial being flying in the skies. Her elegance was beyond comparison as Qing Shui continued to hug harder.

“Pfft, have you hugged enough?” Yu He gently patted Qing Shui’s back as she lightly said.

“Not enough, even if I could hug you for a lifetime, it would never be enough!” Qing Shui continued hugging as he nestled his face in Yu He’s neck.

“You smelly brat, your mouth is indeed sweet. However, you are not allowed to take advantage of me like this in the future. Hmph, you little naughty egg.” Yu He gently replied, but made no moves to free herself from the embrace.

Qing Shui unwillingly relinquished his hold on Yu He, feeling slight dissatisfaction in his heart. The scenario was not going according to the plots of the adult novels and “artistic” films he had watched in his past life. Wasn’t the lady in question supposed to eat him up like a cougar?

“Maybe I’m not the main actor.” Qing Shui frowned. “Either that or, I have not read enough adult novels or learnt sufficient cheesy lines to use yet.” Shaking his head, Qing Shui’s inner voice retorted, “No! I am the main lead! I will be in control of my own destiny and direct and produce my very own version.”

After Qing Shui left, Yu He remained in her room pondering over the matters of her heart. She felt that Qing Shui had already somehow wormed his way inside of her heart. Obviously, she did not believe that she would fall for Qing Shui, a guy who was so much younger than her. Yet, she was not disgusted or angered by his actions. She only felt joy and happiness as they joked around during the times they spent together.

The first time she met him, was out of curiosity! A young man, with a shy and bashful appearance had actually defeated Situ Bu Fan. In any case, didn’t the saying go that the relations between a man and woman would always start because of curiosity, and eventually slowly develop to the point where there was love?

The second time was this occasion, when Qing Shui had brought her two of the unique black fishes. It was the most delicious thing that she had ever eaten. Looking out of the window, and glancing at the back view of Qing Shui, Yu He could not help but feel joy, as

well as how mysterious the young man who just hugged her was.

AST: Chapter 65 – Night Fragrance Court

Qing Shui delivered half a month's worth of fish over to Yu He Inn. Knowing that Qing Shui lacked money, Yu He directly took out 1,000 taels of silver and paid him. Qing Shui could not help thinking about how much of a young and wealthy entrepreneur she was, as he was filled with admiration.

“Damn my granny, earning money is so easy?” Qing Shui rolled his eyes at Yu He, who easily withdrew 1,000 taels of silver without batting an eyelid.

Qing Shui accepted the money straight with no hesitation. After all, when the 150+ black fishes were sold, the total profits would be 15,000 taels of silver! After the 50/50 split, Qing Shui would still be able to receive 7,500 taels of silver.

“Calm, I must be calm!” Qing Shui repeatedly told himself as he took the money and left Yu He Inn.

Elation in his heart, he thought about all the things he could do with the money. He was distracted, and started wandering about aimlessly. When he finally came to his senses, he realized that he was lost. He was right smack in the middle of another luxurious looking street, which was filled with the sounds of people singing and laughing.

Especially from a building at the far end of the street, there were a lot of people entering it. Moving closer, Qing Shui could smell the perfumed fragrance of rouge and makeup powder drifting from

it.

“Wow, I could even smell it from so far away. Could it be this is a place that sells cosmetic items for the ladies? Let me go in and take a peek. After all from his observations, all the customers that were entering the building were males, young and old. The expressions on their faces... invoked a curiosity in Qing Shui, as he was unable to guess what sort of place that building was.

Traces of a smile hung upon his lips as he made his way to the entrance of the building. “Night Fragrance Court” looking at the name of this building, Qing Shui understood.

So this was a brothel. The design was comparable to the Yu He Inn, full of bright colors and filled with beautiful ladies all around. The only difference was, in this place, as long as he had the money, he could fondle the ladies as he wished.

Qing Shui had of course heard of the infamous Night Fragrance Court before. This place was a paradise for men. Every single woman in the Night Fragrance Court, was a ravishing beauty. There were many men who gave positive reviews after trying the “services” offered by this place, and there were even those who would spend a year of their hard-earned savings just for a single night with any one of the beautiful courtesans hailing from here.

Passing by Qing Shui, were men of various ages. For those older men, they were about 50-60, and for those younger ones, about 13-14. At the entrances, were several captivating beauties about 20+ years of age who were beautifully attired, acting as advertisers, flirtatiously pulling customers off the streets, and inciting lust in

them as the customers were persuaded to enter.

“This was the custom of the world of the nine continents, even young males of about 13-14 years old would already knew of the matters between man and woman. It was not surprising for those who belonged to the large clans to be able to afford to visit brothels.”

Qing Shui stood at the entrance, as an old man walked past him, when a soft voice filled with awe rang out. “Sir you are so powerful in bed, please remember to look for Yan`er next time you are here.”

Shaking his head, Qing Shui stare dumbly at the old man, could his “weapon” still be erect? I wonder if there is viagra in this world.

“Young Master, why don’t you come in and try our services. We will make you very happy, no matter what kind of play you like, we would accompany you.” A ravishing beauty flirtatiously smiled at him as she invited him in.

Qing Shui could feel an aura that was remarkably different compared to the rest of the ladies from this particular brothel. She looked to be about 26-30 years, and should have been in this line of work for a long time.

“Young Master? I have become a young master.” Qing Shui wanted to laugh.

“Could it be that my age is too young?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he pondered.

“Men who don’t flirt around are idiots” Urgh, I will just treat it like a form of cultivating my heart. Convincing himself with no effort at all, Qing Shui stepped inside the Night Fragrance Court.

“Young Master, you are so interesting, is this your first time here?” The girl continued leading Qing Shui, as she smiled lightly.

“Ah, how did you know? Is the word “First Time” written on my forehead?” Qing Shui asked with suspicion in his voice.

“Hahaha!” Crisp laughter vibrated the girl’s busty chest as a amorous expression filled her face. Her beauty surpassed only by the sunset, her figure full and curvaceous. Especially her butt, what a perky butt, Qing Shui could not help wanting to plant his hands onto it.

“What a pity that she ended up in a brothel.” Qing Shui silently thought to himself.

“Young Master is really humorous, although the words “First Time” are not written on your forehead, from Young Master’s expression and mannerism, I was able to deduce that it was the first visit for Young Master. Furthermore, if my guess is right, Young Master shouldn’t have tasted any women before. Only virgins would have their heart beat that fast when they are here.” The girl explained, gazing tenderly at Qing Shui, seducing him.

Qing Shui scrutinized this woman closely. Her brows were like a

waning moon, with limpid watery eyes, a exquisite nose, and ruby red lips. With light makeup accentuating her beauty. Her figure was tall and lithe, and her age about 26-30.

Qing Shui felt somewhat awkward as his virginity was called into question by a random woman on the streets. However, from the conversation they exchanged earlier, Qing Shui could determine that this woman had strong observation skills with powerful analytical ability that were a tier higher than ordinary humans.”

“Just looking at my expression, you were able to instantly determine that I was a virgin, this is just too disgraceful.” To think that he would get called up for being a virgin the very first time he visited a brothel.

“Young Master, there is a difference between those who are virgins and those who are not. The latter, when visiting here, would usually have lascivious expressions on their face as their smiles are filled with lust. As for you, you are different, I have been observing you for a long period of time.”

As they spoke, the girl led Qing Shui into the main hallway. Countless ravishing beauties in their revealing attires decked the entire hallway, some were talking to customers, and some simply reclined comfortably on the chairs.

“Young Master, you can take along any of the girls that catch your eye, satisfaction is guaranteed!”

Qing Shui paused, his senses were tingling. At this moment, Qing

Shui could feel that the woman before him, was not as simple as she looked. What was she hiding? Could it be that she was the owner of the brothel?

“Oh, if that is so, I want you. Would you be able to satisfy me?”

AST: Chapter 66 – Ravishing Beauty

“Oh, if that is so, I want you. Would you be able to satisfy me?”

The words of Qing Shui caused the girl to be startled, but she soon recovered with a lewd smile before replying, “Of course I can, follow me!”

Qing Shui’s eyes roamed about as they traversed the through the main hall, capturing all the images of the beautiful girls in this place, intent on storing them in his memory.

“Hehehe, could it be that...” Qing Shui rubbed his hands in glee, feeling excitement in his heart.

Qing Shui followed behind the girl, as he silently made comparisons in his heart. The other girls in the brothel although they were beautiful, they did not emit the sense of grace that he felt from this particular girl.

Qing Shui felt bizarre in his heart. Could it be the reason for that was because he had a desire for older women? Despite so, he felt that the girl in front of him was filled with grace albeit a little bit sultry, although calling her graceful could be considered sarcasm in this place where she was working.

However, after thinking further, Qing Shui realized that it was only logical. Even in a brothel, there needed to be someone with higher ranking who would be trained in more skills and arts, giving better satisfaction to the customers. There were even some

girls who started out in this place, and eventually got married off to wealthy men as their mistresses.

Were it not for the superb hearing of Qing Shui, he would not have been able to hear the moans of pleasure being emitted from inside the rooms.

Just thinking of that, caused his blood to surge. Other than the moans of pleasure, there were also sounds of thumping resounding out, which brought to mind all the pornographic films he had watched in his past life before. Visions of a woman sexily raising her butt, as the guy behind her doing it doggy-style emerged in his mind. The vision was so vivid that Qing Shui could not help but shiver in excitement.

Qing Shui slowly followed the girl, as he continue admiring the design of the building. Pink-colored wallpapers adorned the walls of the corridors while red carpets were laid everywhere in the building.

“Extravagant!”

As he ascended the building, the higher the level, the more extravagant the design was. It was the same for the quality of the women. Arriving at the 4th level, all of the women here could be considered top quality, cream of the crop. Each and every one of the women here was capable of causing men to go crazy. No matter their look or figure, they were all of the top grade without a doubt.

Stepping onto the 5th level, Qing Shui's eyes begin to shine. The design of the 5th level was somewhat different from the other levels. The difference was so great that it could be compared to Heaven and Earth. On the 5th level, there were only two valiant-looking women with a heroic-bearing standing guard there, and upon seeing Qing Shui and the girl arriving, they bowed as they respectfully stated, "Welcome back, Mistress."

Qing Shui knew that his guess was right, however he was still suspicious. He was just randomly wandering about the streets before deciding to enter the Night Fragrance Court. How could it be so coincidental, for him to meet with the owner of the brothel?

Fake mountains and stones decorated the great hall of the 5th level until it resembled a mountainous region. There was even a big heated pool built for the enjoyment of guests. In the distance, there was a white-colored wooden house, and surrounding it, were flowers of different colors and varieties, giving Qing Shui an extremely surreal feel. It was as if he had stepped into a different world.

"Are you satisfied with this place?" The girl turned her head as she smiled at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui looked around him before nodding his head, as hints of a smile touched his lips.

"Let me go take a bathe first. You can wash yourself in the pool over there, after you're done, there will be people bringing you a

new set of clothes for you to change into.”

Qing Shui had no objections. How could he fail to enjoy himself in such a heavenly place. He quickly undressed as he jumped into the heated pool.

Qing Shui relaxed himself totally in the pool. The water was only waist-deep but the heat caused layers of white misty swirls of steam to drift about, giving it the appearance of a celestial pool!

Just as he was done with bathing, Qing Shui proceeded to lie down at the side of the pool, losing himself in fantasies of what would happen later. “Could she want to do that with me later? But she does seem different from the rest.” Although the girl looked graceful, but still, day in day out staying in this type of environment, wouldn’t she give in to temptation and be polluted some how?

Qing Shui shook his head to organize his thoughts. Swiftly afterwards, Qing Shui heard footsteps approaching. It was a young maiden bringing a new set of clothes for him.

Wiping his body dry, Qing Shui changed into that new set of clothes as he started to closely inspect his surroundings, appreciating the art of the designer. Abruptly, a voice sounded out.

“Sorry, did you wait for long?” A charming voice drifted over.

Qing Shui felt himself petrified, as he turned his head back. An

enchanted woman, with beauty exuding demonic charm had appeared before him. Unlike Shi Qing Zhuang, who was like the cold winter, in contrast, she was like the spring wind. Her clear eyes capable of rousing passion and her sexy little mouth was curled up in laughter.

That raven black hair was shoulder length, adding to her overall charm by 30%. The snow-white pyjamas that she wore fully displayed the curves of her body, and those jade-white legs seemed to shine with an unholy light that caused men to be mesmerized. At this moment, Qing Shui could barely keep himself under control. All he wanted to do was to rush over right now at this moment and fondle her to his heart's content.

Using willpower that he didn't know he possessed, Qing Shui clenched his toes as he forcibly restrained himself. Rubbing his nose as he asked, "Sorry, you are?"

"Wow, do you have the memory of a goldfish? It hasn't even been an hour since we last met." The girl lightly laughed.

"It is really you?" How could there be such drastic changes after she bathed. Qing Shui momentarily couldn't connect the current face that he was seeing to the matured face from earlier.

Qing Shui stared unblinkingly at the girl in front of him. Were they really the same person? Although their voices were similar, the aura emitted, as well as the bearing and personality seemed slightly off. This girl that was in front of him had 30% more elegance, but she had none of that sultry aura from before.

“I don’t believe you.”

“Elder sister, I have lost. I’m not playing anymore.” The girl from earlier, stepped out from somewhere as she was called out.

“What the fuck?” Qing Shui was extremely confused now, could it be he had unknowingly participated as the subject of a bet?

The expression on Qing Shui face got more and more unsightly as he looked at this pair of beautiful sisters. “This old me is here to play around with women, how dare you disrespect customers in this manner.”

The two sisters stared dumbly at Qing Shui. Only now did they realize that they had forgotten about Qing Shui.

AST: Chapter 67 – Xiantian, Wenren Wu-Shuang

After Qing Shui finished his outburst, he stared at the two beautiful sisters while awkwardly rubbing his nose. Shit, was I too vulgar? Even if I want to fool around, I can't be so straightforward. In any case, I shouldn't be losing my virginity in this type of place.

“Errr, that was not what I meant!”

“Understood. In reality, I approached you for another reason. Are you the same Qing Shui who defeated the bunch of self-deluded young masters that hail from the four great clans?”

Qing Shui furrowed his brows in displeasure. No one was willing to be spied upon and investigated. Even though it was him who had defeated the bunch of good for nothings, his name shouldn't be known to the general populace, as the four great clans would most likely want to keep it a secret. Unless they made a special effort to investigate closer in more detail, there was no way that his name should have appeared.

“Don't be mistaken, we did not specially conduct an investigation on you. That day, when you defeated the various young masters, I was nearby and witnessed everything. As for today, when I spotted you down the streets, my sister was curious. It did not appear that you are here for the services provided, and thus, the earlier scenario you witnessed, was planned to happen.” Hints of laughter could be seen from the beautiful, charming black eyes of the younger sister, as she tried to appease Qing Shui's anger.

“A beauty capable of toppling empires!” When he saw her smile, Qing Shui felt that the description was apt.

“Are the two of you blood sisters? Is the Night Fragrant Court a business owned by both of you?” Qing Shui asked after he calmed down.

“Yup, she is my blood sister Wenren Wu-Gou, and I am Wenren Wu-Shuang!” Maybe it was a declaration of her sincerity, but Wenren Wu-Shuang offered her name without being asked.

“The Night Fragrant Court, is the business owned by my elder sister. I offered to help out as I’m just passing by.” Wenren Wu-Shuang inclined her head as she smiled at Qing Shui.

“Are there still any other questions that you would like to ask?” Wenren Wu-Gou interjected with hints of flirtation coloring her tone.

When compared to Wenren Wu-Shuang, Wenren Wu-Gou was basically a born seductress, everything about her – her personality, her features, her figure, her mannerisms, her sense of style, they all indicated that she was a man-eater. Even though Wenren Wu-Shuang exceeded her elder sister in terms of features and aura exuded, Qing Shui was still firmly sure that if he had to make a choice between the two, he would choose to bed Wenren Wu-Gou instead. After all, all men like their women to be more passionate in bed. He would rather bed a hot chick than a dead fish in any given scenarios.

“However, if I could somehow brainwash and train the younger sister Wenren Wu-Shuang to be naughty just for my sake, hehehe, I can die with no regrets!” Qing Shui started fantasizing again.

“As the saints and monks cautioned, ‘Avoid Gluttony and Lust!’ However I am just an ordinary mortal, I’m not wrong, I’m right. Amitabha!” Qing Shui started to mumble incoherent words absent-mindedly, causing the two sisters to be filled with curiosity.

“I don’t understand. In order to operate in this line of business it requires one to have a certain level of backing and strength.” Qing Shui directed the question to Wenren Wu-Gou. Even though asking this question felt somewhat like an invasion of her privacy, Qing Shui decided to still plough on ahead and ask. After all, the two sisters knew everything about him while he had no inkling of their backgrounds.

“Who says that we lack strength? Can’t you tell the strength level of my sister Wenren Wu-Shuang?” Wenren Wu-Gou blinked her beautiful eyes slowly, as she teased Qing Shui.

Upon hearing that, Qing Shui once again turned his head to inspect Wenren Wu-Shuang more closely. Her features seemed to be designed intricately by God, the epitome of refined intelligence. Her charming face was only further accentuated by those bright eyes of hers. In addition to her jade-like, high-chiseled nose, and her red-tinged sexy little lips, she could only be described like a snow lotus amongst volcanic embers.

Her figure was not as extreme as that of her elder sister, but was something more closely resembling Yu He. Shapely, but not overly so. One could see the arcs of her twin peaks clearly outlined, and the contours of her perky butt, even when covered by her pyjamas. While her long and shapely legs shined with the glow of pure jade, invoking feelings of desires in men.

This woman, in any sense of the word, was close to a level of perfection. Her whole body exuded a refined aura similar to that of a celestial being.

“This aura feels exceedingly mysterious!” Qing Shui’s clear eyes closely focused on Wenren Wu-Shuang, and his gaze continued roaming around her body, as he attempted to unravel the mystery.

A rosy red blossomed on Wenren Wu-Shuang’s cheeks. It was unknown if this was caused by the heat emitted from the heated pool, or because of Qing Shui’s inspection of her. Or maybe it was caused by the words from her elder sister earlier, Wenren Wu-Gou, “Can’t you tell the strength level of my sister Wenren Wu-Shuang?”.

Although Qing Shui did not grasp the hidden meaning behind that sentence, Wu-Shuang could only go red, as she somewhat understood the lewd joke her elder sister was making.

“In Hundred Miles City, there were still quite a few publicly known figures with cultivation at the peak of the Houtian stage. But as for Xiantian cultivators, no one knows clearly knew how many the great clans possessed. The Night Fragrance Court, was an extremely popular place for men. To think that even those young

masters from the various great clans did not dare to cause a ruckus here.”

This meant that the Night Fragrance Court had strength beyond them. This meant that behind these two sisters, clearly, there was someone of immense strength and solid status supporting them in the background.

“Stop your wild guessing. Both me and my sisters were orphans, and were adopted by our teacher. However, he unfortunately passed away a few years ago. In the past, when our teacher was still alive, no one dared to make trouble for our Night Fragrance Court. After he passed away, we didn’t dare to tell anyone, so we still remained under the bubble of protection provided by the name of our teacher. Luckily for us, at the beginning of this year, Wu-Shuang achieved a breakthrough. Only then did I finally relax.” Wenren Wu-Gou explained.

Qing Shui’s furrowed his brows deeper and deeper, as he heard the explanation of Wenren Wu-Gou. Even if Wu-Shuang broke through, so what about it? Even if she was at the Martial Commander Realm, her power would still be insufficient to stop the young masters from the various clans coming over here to create trouble. Unless....

“WHAT THE, could it be...? Xiantian?” Qing Shui gasped in shock, as he staggered backwards, looking at Wenren Wu-Shuang.

Wenren Wu-Shuang nodded her head shyly, “A moment of karmic luck, that’s how I broke through. Truth to be told, it still feels like a dream to me.” Rolling her sleeves, revealing her jade-

white hands, Wenren Wu-Shuang extended one of her arm slowly and gently, as a tyrannical surge of energy emanated forth from her. This aura she released, was as sharp as 10,000 swords, threatening to overwhelm Qing Shui, before she quickly retracted it.

Qing Shui stood there dumbly. He knew that he had just experienced the aura of a Xiantian cultivator. What a terrifying aura, especially the pressure contained within. It felt that Xiantian cultivators could kill him as easily as a flipping a palm. This Xiantian Qi, could be utilized in such a way that it could be coated around the fist, the palms, or even around weapons.

This girl in front of him looked so young. To think she would have a lifespan of 500 years! She had already embarked onto a path, and broken through the doorway where many others had no hope to do so!

Looking at Wenren Wu-Shuang, Qing Shui could tell that she was truly favored by the heavens. How far would she be able to walk on this path on the future? With grace bestowed onto her by the Heavens, she was akin to a ferocious tiger exiting the mountain, or a flood dragon emerging from the sea.

“Congratulations! You are the first person I met that had broken through to the fabled Xiantian realm. Initially, I thought that all Xiantian cultivators were old men with white hair, or at the very least, they would be middle-aged.” Qing Shui smiled as he joked about his own ignorance.

“Thank you. Actually the reason we went to that extent to invite

you here, was because we are very curious about your sword techniques. How did you manage to reach such a realm? If it is convenient, could you please tell us?” That gaze of Wenren Wu-Shuang, was something no man could reject.

“I’m not a smart man, as you can see, the sword technique I grasped were those of the most basic kind. I just practiced the same sword move, unceasingly over 10 years, and stabbed out countless numbers of sword stabs, before I could reach the level I had today.” Qing Shui touched his nose slightly as he awkwardly explained.

Both Wu-Gou and Wu-Shuang looked at Qing Shui, stunned.

After a while, Wenren Wu-Shuang joyfully exclaimed as radiance suffused her features, “I wonder... I’m not sure if you have unparalleled intelligence, or if you are an idiot.”

Qing Shui glanced suspiciously at her.

“My teacher had once said that the moves recorded in the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> book were not as simple and basic on the surface as described. Back then, I couldn’t understand the meaning of his words. However, when I saw you that day, I knew that you had already reached the realm of sword truths, and comprehended the true meaning of the sword.”

AST: Chapter 68 – Realm of Sword Truths

“It felt truly bizarre at that time, as though my vision was blurred. How could someone like you, at such a young age, and with a cultivation level not at the Xiantian realm be able to reach the Realm of Sword Truths? Although the move you trained in was extremely basic, it would still take uncommon wisdom, as well as many years of grinding before one could even remotely sense the doorway to the Realm of Sword Truths.” Wenren Wu-Shuang stared questioningly at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui embarrassedly rubbed his nose when he noticed the expression of awe on Wenren Wu-Shuang’s face when she looked at him. “I’m just a one-trick pony, I only know this basic move, and I only obtained some insights due to being stubborn, and relentlessly practicing just a single move for over 10 years. There is no way anyone else would want to expend such a huge amount of effort into perfecting just a single, basic strike.”

Wenren Wu-Shuang smiled, “That’s why I said, it is either you are an idiot, or you are a genius. However, you are correct, there is no way anyone else would be willing to do what you did.”

Qing Shui could only smile awkwardly. Back then, I could only learn through books, as well as experimenting by myself without a mentor to guide me. To me, seeking perfection was something normal, and thus, I only felt that what I did was right. Perfecting a single move, albeit derived from the basic techniques, and turning the ordinary into something extraordinary. It seems that somehow, unknowingly, he had managed to venture his way, and gain insights into the Realm of Sword Truth! But, what does Sword Truth mean? Only now did Qing Shui learn of this term – Realm of

the Sword Truth

“What does the true meaning of Sword Truth signify?” Qing Shui inclined his head as he asked.

Wenren Wu-Shuang cast a glance at Qing Shui, before replying, “The levels of accomplishment in martial techniques could be classified as: Initial, Well-versed, Nimble, Master, Ancestor, Truth, Creation, Heaven, and lastly, Divine Perfection! The limits of the martial techniques of those at the peak of the Houtian Realm, was at the Ancestor level. Even for the Truth Realm, only a precious few of those in the Xiantian Realm would be able to gain sufficient insights and comprehend such a state. So tell me, do you think that you are worthy of our curiosity now?”

“The Realm of Truth, signifies a turning point from Houtian to Xiantian. To think that I met someone younger, whose cultivation was not even in the Xiantian Realm, and yet he already comprehends insights from the Realm of Truth. How could I not be curious?”

“Hey, let’s move the discussion over to behind the fake mountains. Platters of fruits and desserts are already ready for us to enjoy.” Wenren Wu-Gou interjected, as she fluttered her eyelashes at Qing Shui.

The three of them proceeded to the back of the fake mountain. With two ravishing beauties accompanying him, how could Qing Shui not feel joyful. However, he fully understood the distance between the current him, and the Xiantian Realm. The majority of men would immediately stop their advances upon learning the fact

that Wu-Shuang was at the Xiantian level, but not Qing Shui.

After the three of them were seated, Qing Shui stole numerous glances at both Wenren Wu-Gou and Wenren Wu-Shuang. One was the incarnate of a succubus, while the other was holy and pure like a celestial maiden.

“Actually, there is something that I would like to request your help with.” Wenren Wu-Shuang candidly spoke.

“Help? But you are at the Xiantian level, what could I help you with?” Puzzlement shone in his eyes, as Qing Shui looked at Wenren Wu-Shuang

“It is precisely because of your sword techniques. I wish to personally experience a sword technique at the Realm of Truth. It would surely aid me greatly in my understanding of insights to reach the Realm of Truth. Of course, I won’t be expecting you to help me for nothing, I will compensate you.” Wenren Wu-Shuang seriously spoke.

Using my sword technique to spar against her shouldn’t be a problem, but she said earlier she could compensate me? Could the compensation be.... Qing Shui began to laugh pervertedly with his inner voice as he imagined the possibilities while maintaining an outwardly calm appearance.

“Yup yup, hey little fellow, what are you thinking of? Why are there hints of lust in your eyes.” Wenren Wu-Gou teased Qing Shui.

“Damn, I was seen through?” However, Qing Shui decisively replied, “I’m already an adult, not a little fellow. Call me a man.”

Qing Shui somewhat hated the fact that he was young, because this kept leading to many girls who were between the age of 20+ to 30 considering as him nothing but a little boy. His heart grieved at the thought. How could they think that my weapon has no killing intent? It was already imbued with all my lust, and polished, ready to go at tip-top condition ages ago. Just give me a chance, I will show you what my weapon can do, anytime.

The words of Qing Shui, caused the two sisters to be stunned before bursting out into laughter, causing Qing Shui to feel even more helpless.

“Why don’t you let elder sister find a woman for you, transforming you into a real man.” Wenren Wu-Gou cunningly smiled as she teased Qing Shui.

Wenren Wu-Shuang stood by the side, smiling as she watched the back-and-forth between her sister and Qing Shui. This was the first time in a long while she had seen her sister this happy. If not for the fact that Qing Shui was so young, she would have thought that her elder sister had fallen for Qing Shui.

“There is no need to trouble elder sister to find others. Anyway this is my first time, rather than benefiting others, why don’t I benefit elder sister instead.” Qing Shui refused to let Wenren Wu-Gou off so easily after suffering her teasing, so he decided to openly

state his intentions while allowing lust to fill his eyes as he laughed somewhat perversely.

Regretfully, that perverted laughter and that lust-filled look didn't really suit Qing Shui. The "killing intent" emitted from Qing Shui was insufficient, and gave him a slightly adorable look instead.

(TL: The killing intent referred here, means sexual aura)

"Okay okay, let's stop joking. You accompany Wu-Shuang to practice her sword techniques. I have to go get busy elsewhere! Let's dine together later." Wenren Wu-Gou stared suggestively at Qing Shui, before she left.

Looking at the seductive back view of Wu-Gou's swaying hips, and those white shapely legs beneath her gown, Qing Shui grimaced. What a seductive woman indeed.

"Let us go to the training hall at the top of the building, and spar with each other." Wenren Wu-Shuang said softly.

Qing Shui inclined his head in agreement as he followed Wu-Shuang to the top of the building. While on the way, Qing Shui could not help sneaking peeks at this holy, saint-like maiden.

Her beauty would be insulted if you compared it to mundane things like other women in the world. Instead, her beauty was on a far greater scale, like that of the setting sun, or the vastness of

nature. She was akin to a snow lotus, holy and pure, incomparably graceful and elegant!

Looking at the snowy-white pyjamas Wu-Shuang wore, as she withdraw two wooden swords before passing them to Qing Shui, he couldn't help but to ask:

“Er, don't you need to change clothes?”

“It's fine, if what you are wearing is uncomfortable, there's another set of clothes over there. However, those clothes are only worn by women...”

Speechless, Qing Shui could only mutely accept the wooden sword. He began to fantasize again. What if I “accidentally” slashed through the fabrics of Wu-Shuang's pyjamas, hehehehe, what a great view it would be then.

“What are you looking at! Don't think I don't know what you are thinking. Why are all men filled with lust.” Wenren Wu-Shuang was not only not alarmed, there was even faint hints of light laughter coloring her tone. Giving a sense of hope embedded in that smile, also filled with confidence, elegance, understanding, and acceptance.

“Beautiful things should be admired by everyone, only the other saying went, pretty women are akin to troubled waters. However, you seem to be an exception to this. I wonder which lucky male in the future would obtain your favor.” Qing Shui cheekily smiled.

“Hmph, what are you saying? Are you praising me or cursing me, you shouldn’t be so focused on chasing women at such a young age. After you are stronger, there would be countless beautiful women waiting for you out there in the world.”

“I’m afraid that you would be led away by another filthy male before I get stronger.” Qing Shui said, as his acting skills enable his face to be filled with bitterness and sorrow.

“You are still teasing me! I don’t want to get married so early anyway.” Wenren Wu-Shuang pouted playfully.

Looking at the holy and pure maiden behaving in such a way, almost caused Qing Shui to scream “God, save me!”

Now, Qing Shui could finally relax. As long as she was not in a hurry to get married, after he was strong, there would still be plenty of chances for him.

“Are you ready? I’m going to start.” Qing Shui wielded his wooden sword as he looked towards Wenren Wu-Shuang.

Wenren Wu-Shuang nodded her head, as she similarly brandished her wooden sword.

“Xiu!” Although it was just an ordinary sword stab, it’s speed was as fast as lightning. However, Wenren Wu-Shuang dodged it easily, as she shifted her jade-like white legs lightly. She swayed her body like a willow dancing in the wind, while attacking Qing Shui

concurrently, slashing her sword horizontally, targeting Qing Shui's wrist.

Wenren Wu-Shuang did not use her Xiantian Qi!

The Solitary Rapid Fist and the Iaido Technique at the realm of sword truth stage, had long melded together. Qing Shui's strikes, other than being as fast as lightning, were also comparable to a fierce gale of wind during a raging storm. Incomparably agile and nimble, like a fish swimming in the ocean!

AST: Chapter 69 – The Miraculous Xiantian Golden Pellet

Wenren Wu-Shuang could feel that the intensity of Qing Shui's strikes were getting swifter and swifter, while the force behind them got stronger and stronger!

Looking at how easily Wenren Wu-Shuang dodged his attacks, he couldn't help but feel gloomy after spending so much time perfecting his sword technique. After all, what was the use if he can't even land a single strike.

What Qing Shui didn't know was that, Wenren Wu-Shuang was actually the one that was feeling the pressure. The shock in her heart was indescribable. She could already tell the difference between them the moment Qing Shui had started his attacks. Only by utilizing her Xiantian level technique, the Moondance Steps, did she managed to avoid his strikes. If not for that, Wenren Wu-Shuang could tell that she wouldn't even be able to last three moves against Qing Shui.

“So this is the gap between the Ancestor and the Truth realm.” The sword techniques of Wenren Wu-Shuang, although she had not broken through to the Truth realm, were already at the Great Perfection Stage of the Ancestor Realm. The realms could be further divided into four stages: Initial Stage, Middle Stage, Peak Stage and Great Perfection Stage!

Although the distance between the Great Perfection Stage of the Ancestor Realm, and the Truth Realm was only the width of a single hair, the breadth of that width could also be comparable to

the distance between Heaven and Earth. It was the same thing when a peak Houtian expert, no matter how strong he was, was in front of a person who just stepped into the Xiantian realm. The peak Houtian expert was equivalent to trash, and would be unable to stand a single attack.

The Moondance Steps of Wenren Wu-Shuang had already reached the Great Perfection Stage of the Ancestor Realm! Despite this, she could only barely manage to dodge the sword strikes from the <<Basic Sword Techniques>> of the Truth Realm. This clearly showcased the difference in power levels between the two realms.

Qing Shui did not know that Wenren Wu-Shuang was going all out when sparring against him. She even resorted to using one of the more valuable types of Xiantian techniques – Body Movement Technique.

“Stop!” Looking at the sword strikes of Qing Shui, it appeared that were akin to the waves of the ocean. Each strike was stronger than the last, and with no signs of a broken rhythm, the strikes linked together as one. Other than that, she learned that Qing Shui was able to unleash his attacks from all angles, and was mysterious and crafty when he chose his path of attack. Were it not for her Moondance Steps technique aiding her in evasion, she would have lost long ago.

What a pity that he could not use Xiantian Qi. If he was at the Xiantian level, the speed and force of his attacks, in addition to that Xiantian Qi, would truly be able to unleash the true might of the Truth Realm.

Qing Shui stopped his attacks, as he looked towards the slightly out of breath Wenren Wu-Shuang. A line of sweat could be seen across her forehead, as her cheeks were flushed with redness. Qing Shui felt that the current Wenren Wu-Shuang, was more like a mortal woman, instead of the unattainable celestial being earlier.

Wenren Wu-Shuang speechlessly looked at Qing Shui, as depression set in her heart. Although he was slightly red in the face, he was not breathless at all! An hour of strenuous exertions was actually nothing to Qing Shui? What she didn't know was that the Ancient Strengthening Technique which Qing Shui cultivates in, strongly emphasizes on tempering the body. If she knew, she wouldn't have found it strange. Under the circumstances of not using Xiantian Qi, Wenren Wu-Shuang could actually last for such a long time, and this was not so simple at all. However, if she did use Xiantian Qi to aid in her attacks, then without a doubt, be it in speed or power, she would have overbearingly trounced Qing Shui.

Although she was depressed, a shine could still be seen glowing in her eyes as she looked at Qing Shui. She has already decided to make Qing Shui into her sparring partner in the future. As long as she suppressed her strength level down to match with Qing Shui, it would surely greatly aid her in her understanding of sword techniques. As for breaking through to the Truth realm, this would have to depend on her level of insights and karmic luck.

“Can I ask you a question?” Qing Shui looked towards Wenren Wu-Shuang, after she walked out of the training hall.

“Of course you can, stop being so formal, we are already friends now.” Wenren Wu-Shuang joyfully smiled, a smile that was as

warm as the spring wind.

“Do you know how many methods there are for one to break through to Xiantian? Also, what was the feeling like when you first broke through?” Qing Shui, finally met a Xiantian lifeform, so there was no way he would be shy about asking questions. After all, even if one searched for Xiantian cultivators, and even if one were to search till the cows came home, it was not a guarantee that they would be able to find any. Now, not only a Xiantian Cultivator was in front of him, that Xiantian Cultivator was a hot babe too, how could he give up this chance?

Wenren Wu-Shuang blinked her beautiful eyes, as she closely inspected Qing Shui.

“Are you at the peak of Martial Commander Realm?”

Qing Shui bitterly smiled as he shook his head, “I’m not sure myself, on the surface I’m only at the 3rd Grade of Martial Warrior Realm. However, even if I have to fight against a peak Houtian expert, I don’t think I would have any trouble against them.”

“Shameless!” Wenren Wu-Shuang laughed.

This was the first time Qing Shui saw such an expression of laughter on Wu-Shuang’s face. Words were insufficient to describe it and thus, he could only stare at her, slack-jawed. Time, momentarily seemed to pause as the expression of her laughter, akin to the blooming colors of the rainbow, fully occupied Qing Shui’s mind.

“From what I know, there are only two surefire methods to break through to the Xiantian Realm. The first method, one must be able to find “that moment” of destiny, breaking through enlightenment. The second method, is to consume a “Xiantian Golden Pellet” concocted by Alchemists. As long as someone who was at the peak of Houtian, ingested the pellet, they would surely be able to step into the Xiantian Realm.

“Xiantian Golden Pellet?” Puzzlement shone in his eyes as Qing Shui looked at Wenren Wu-Shuang, he had never once heard of such a miraculous medicine, that could allow someone to step inside the doorway of the Xiantian Realm which had restricted countless others.

Looking at how shocked Qing Shui was, Wenren Wu-Shuang lightly laughed, she could easily guess at what Qing Shui was thinking. “Xiantian Golden Pellet is indeed a miraculous medicine. However, do you know of the ingredients needed to concoct it?”

Qing Shui had some expectations in his heart. After all, for such a miraculous pellet, the ingredients needed shouldn't be too common right?

“The first, most crucial ingredient, is a core from a demonic beast!”

Fuck! Demonic beasts, and only desolate beasts who have lived at least for 500 years would have a core form within their bodies. A beast of the Xiantian level would be much stronger than human cultivators of the Xiantian level. Human Xiantian Cultivators might not even be able to defeat a Xiantian Beast even if it was two

on one. Of course there are exceptions, but almost all the time, Xiantian level beasts would be much stronger than Xiantian Human Cultivators.

“Other than a demonic core, to concoct the golden pellet, the alchemist would also need other extremely rare ingredients such as, the immortal wolf flower, deer antlers, ginseng, lingzhi.... And those ingredients all need to be at least above 1,000 years. As for ingredients such as the deer antlers, the animal must at least be at the demonic beast level.”

Qing Shui was speechless, he was no longer excited after hearing the ingredients. The difficulty of gathering all of those ingredients listed, was as tough as getting a demonic core.

“The Xiantian Golden Pellet does sounds like good stuff.” Qing Shui stated with a mix of helplessness and hatred after half a day.

Wenren Wu-Shuang couldn't help but laughed when she saw the flummoxed expression on Qing Shui's face.

“Oh, there is one more thing I forgot to mention. Those who depend on the Xiantian Golden Pellet to reach the Xiantian realm would be infinitely weaker than those who broke through on their own. After all, they did not obtain the necessary moment of epiphany when they broke through.”

The words of Wenren Wu-Shuang almost caused Qing Shui to sob.

“What the fuck, obtaining the Xiantian Golden Pellet is already so difficult, and in the end, you are still destined to be weaker than the other Xiantian cultivators. This is so unfair!” Qing Shui raged.

“No spewing vulgarities allowed.” Wenren Wu-Shuang extended her hand and lightly rapped on Qing Shui’s head.

At that moment, Qing Shui stood there dully as that light rap by those jade-white hands seemed to cause him to enter into a mysterious state of mind, a state of mind that he had not felt in a long time.

AST: Chapter 70 – Figuring Out Alchemy

Qing Shui froze, as he stood there dumbly. That gentle little hand that lightly rapped on his head caused him to instantly enter into a mysterious state of mind, as various emotions surfaced – contentment, peace, happiness.

Other than that, there was also a feeling that was akin to an epiphany, causing knowledge to once again bloom in his mind. Qing Shui focused on his inner state, on his sea of consciousness, having no inclination of what's happening outside.

Enlightenment! This is enlightenment!

The beautiful eyes of Wenren Wu-Shuang stared incredulously at Qing Shui. He was just standing there, lost in a state of mind. Radiant joy blossomed on his face, and his eyes were not glazed over like they were entranced in another dreamlike world, but were instead exceptionally clear, and emitting a sense of extreme peace. Wenren Wu-Shuang, who had already went through a bout of enlightenment, knew that Qing Shui was undergoing a bout of enlightenment as well.

At this moment, the area of content for alchemy that was previously greyed out in his mind, began to blaze with a golden yellow radiance within Qing Shui's sea of consciousness.

Qing Shui did not know if the alchemy in this world was similar to the information contained within his mind. Although he did previously identified a herb in this world that could be found

inside the [Western Fantasy], he was unsure if the pills concocted would be any similar.

Qing Shui swiftly inspected the newly unlocked information, but to his dismay, the contents that were unlocked, were only of the preliminary grade. Before this, Qing Shui was feeling extremely excited, because he discovered there was actually alchemy recipes that were unlocked as well. Even if one had an abundance of spiritual herbs and ingredients, there was no way for an Alchemist to concoct a pill if he did not have a recipe. But....

Alchemy Recipe? Why was there only one!?

Golden Ointment Alchemy Recipe, the ingredients needed are: Blood-Cease Plants, Ginseng, Angelica Sinesis, etc....

Golden Fragrance Jade Pills Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level Insufficient, Information locked!

Martial Dragon Pill Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level Insufficient, Information locked!

Small Revitalizing Pellet Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level Insufficient, Information locked.

Refined Revitalizing Pellet Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level Insufficient, Information locked.

Glowing Buddha Seed Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level

Insufficient, Information locked.

9 Souls Reincarnation Pellet Alchemy Recipe, Mastery Level
Insufficient, Information locked.

When Qing Shui finished inspecting all the Alchemy Recipes, there were over 10 others, and he realized that there were plenty of other types of medicinal pills that were not in [Western Fantasy]. After all, at the end of the day the game was still just a game. There are bound to be things in reality that were not fully captured by the game.

Qing Shui then looked at his Mastery Level experience bar, pitifully, it was at 0%. The him now could only concoct Golden Ointment Medicine but even so, he did not have sufficient ingredients.

“Hmm, I have not seen the concoction methods yet.” Qing Shui hurriedly began to look at the contents unlocked again.

Methods of Pill Concoction: requires a suitable type of flame to purify the ingredients. Other than that, when all the ingredients are placed inside a cauldron, one must continually activate the Ancient Strengthening Technique, to increase the rate of pill concoction success. The higher the Mastery Level, the higher the rate of success.

Other than mastery experience, taking into account the grade of the pill concocted, the grade of the ingredients, in addition to the type of cauldron, and the type of flame used, they would all affect

the rate of success!

“Pill Concoction Cauldron? Types of Flame? Qing Shui once read about these in one of the medical books. A good quality cauldron was something that alchemist couldn't do without, but the type of flame used was even more important.

The type of flame required, at the very least, had to be originated from one of the specially manufactured items named firesoil. Other than that, stonefire, earthfire, and after reaching the Xiantian realm, one could also use the flame of Xiantian to refine the pills. It was impossible to refine pills by using the normal fire from firewood or charcoal.

It is not impossible, so to speak, but flames arising from firewood or charcoal simply had too low of a temperature to be able to refine pills. The flames that were more frequently used by alchemists, were the flames from stonefire or earthfire.

To use Xiantian flames continually, was just too draining on the cultivator. For pills concocted whose grades were not especially high nor valuable, alchemists would usually just use stonefire or earthfire to refine the pills. As for firesoil, it was usually used by those alchemists who had yet to reach the Xiantian level. Needless to say, the effects were far inferior when compared to stonefire and earthfire.

The current Qing Shui, was in a miraculous state of being. Losing his sense of his worldly body, and becoming something more like an Astral Projection. The current him, could actually enter into his sea of consciousness physically, when previously, he could only

view it like a spectator.

However, Qing Shui himself did not know that he was in the midst of enlightenment. The most fundamental state of being in enlightenment, requires the subject to enter into a state of obliviousness, a state where one forgets everything – even oneself.

Wenren Wu-Shuang stood by the side as she stared at the motionless Qing Shui. This fellow is just too lucky, just a light rap on the head and he obtained such huge benefits?

She decided to leave Qing Shui alone as she descended. After all, there was no way to tell how long Qing Shui would take to finish processing his bout of enlightenment. Initially, she almost mistook the stunned look on Qing Shui's face to be him suffering from attacks of heart demons, and had almost woken him up. This would have destroyed the benefits that he would have obtained from the full bout of enlightenment.

“Wu-Shuang, why did you come down alone? Where is that little fellow?” Wenren Wu-Gou laughed with a hint of craftiness.

“He is undergoing a bout of enlightenment.”

“Oh, okay.” Wenren Wu-Gou replied nonchalantly.

“WHAT?!” She shrieked, as the pupils of her eyes widened, looking at her sister Wu-Shuang.

Wenren Wu-Shuang smiled as she explained, “This little fellow, seemed to have the luck of the devil, he actually entered into a state of enlightenment after I rapped his head with my hand, unbelievable.”

Stunned for a moment, Wenren Wu-Gou drew in a breath as she recovered, “The state of enlightenment, is something that cannot be sought after. There is no absolute guarantee that one could enter that special state. It is only brought about by karmic luck, and various combinations of the right circumstances. There were many who were interrupted before they could obtain the full benefits brought to them, and had their cultivation stuck there. This guy, just what is going on with him.”

“That is true. Lucky for him, he met me today. If not, who knows how many years in the future it would have taken him to experience that bout of enlightenment.” Wenren Wu-Shuang slightly blushed as she smiled lightly.

“Wu-Shuang, this little fellow is destined to be someone extraordinary. You know my judgement is never wrong. You would do well to consider him as your future husband. After all, good men are hard to find.” Said Wenren Wu-Gou.

“Hmm, I have no intentions to do so in the near future. I have no wish to marry so soon. What I want to do now is to focus on increasing my strength, and wait for elder sister to reach Xiantian before I consider matters such as marriage.” Wenren Wu-Shuang seriously replied.

Wenren Wu-Gou ignored the cheeks which were reddening on those angelic features of Wenren Wu-Shuang, as she continued on unabashedly.

“Me reaching Xiantian? Forget it. Having a sister like you at the Xiantian level could already be considered a gift from heavens. As for Xiantian, I have never harbored any hopes of breaking through to that realm. My only wish, is for you to live happily. With greater power, comes greater danger, that was why I wanted you to get acquainted with that little fellow. Being able to reach the realm of the Truth before Xiantian, I have never heard of anyone that has been able to do so. It would only do you good to be friends with him. As for matters of marriage, I will leave it to your own discretion.”

AST: Chapter 71 – Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang

The current Qing Shui, was drowning in waves of happiness. Aside from unlocking the alchemy methods and recipes in his mind, there was also still plenty of other information that was being unlocked.

<<Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang>>!

The Heaven and Earth could be categorized as Yin and Yang. Heaven was Yang while Earth was Yin. Not only that, every living thing on earth could be classified as either Yin or Yang. The Ancient Yin-Yang Flame was able to burn anything in the world while merging together strength and gentleness, and was one of the most primal types of flames that have ever existed. It could be used for concoction of pills, for tempering of weapons, for creation and forging, refinement and various others.....

“Hahaha, the heavens are really kind to me. Whatever I need, I would get!” Qing Shui laughed uproariously in his sea of consciousness.

The contents and methods for cultivating the Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang, were recorded as well. Qing Shui smiled, because the Ancient Yin-Yang Flames needed Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique to activate it.

Hehehe, my Ancient Strengthening Technique is still the best!!

However, bizarrely, it felt as if he could learn everything he wanted to, and at a frightening speed at that. Unknowingly, as Qing Shui was reading the methods of to cultivate the Ancient Yin-Yang Flame, his body automatically circulated the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique in the direction dictated on the methods. To his surprise, his progress in it could be compared to a horse galloping on a wide expanse of land, as there were no signs of hinderment.

The <<Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang>> could not be measured in levels or grades. Its might was generated from the Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, thus the intensity of the flames depended on the level of one's cultivation in the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

“Ai, why is it so simple to cultivate this technique?” Qing Shui felt that his hand was gradually emitting a wave of scorching heat.

This was an indication that one had successfully managed to cultivate the Ancient Flames of Yin-Yang Technique!

If Qing Shui knew that he was in the midst of enlightenment, then he probably wouldn't find it strange.

Qing Shui focused his entire attention on to understanding the Ancient Flames of Yin-Yang Technique. For example, during activation of the technique, what was the movement of his Qi flow, and studying how to control the intensity of the flames that were unleashed.

As time passed, the temperature of the scorching heat on his hand as well as the temperature of his body, got higher and higher. Strangely enough, he didn't feel the slightest bit uncomfortable. If it was not for the Ancient Strengthening Technique that had tempered his body and internal organs to such a state, it would be highly probable for him to already be burnt into cinders. This was probably the reason why only those who had tempered their bodies through the Ancient Strengthening Technique or other similar cultivation techniques, would be able to train in this particular Ancient Yin-Yang Flame technique.

As the temperature slowly rose, the circulation of his Ancient Strengthening Technique's Qi got increasingly slower, yet the force needed for raising the temperature, got increasing larger as well. It was as if the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique was undergoing a compression of sorts!

Gradually, roughly about 15 minutes passed. However in these 15 minutes, it felt like an eternity. Qing Shui's countenance, alternated between fiery red and icy blue. The temperature of both his hands and his body began to rise to such a state where he could only feel numbness, as they alternated between scorching heat and freezing cold. When finally, "Peng!" A flame ember, about an inch tall, had materialized like the explosion of a firework on the surface of his palm.

"So this is the Yin-Yang Flame?" Qing Shui looked at the grey-colored ember in his palm. Oddly enough, there was no sense of heat. The ember emitted a sense of frosty chill instead as Qing Shui stood there dumbly.

The Earth and the Heaven, could be classified as Yin and Yang, so could the night and day. Black for the night, and white for the day, ice and fire intermixed as one, so this is Yin Yang!

The ember only had the size of a single inch, but Qing Shui could clearly sense the intensity of the tyrannical power contained within.

This is the Yin-Yang Flame that had the power to burn everything!

As Qing Shui was contemplating about the Yin-Yang flame that was burning in his hand, he continued to study the cultivation methods of it.

“What? Separate the Yin-Yang Flame?” Qing Shui stared at the methods, thunderstruck.

The cultivation methods for other techniques of similar nature, would usually first separate the components of the Yang Flame and the Yin Flame, cultivating one at a time until a certain level, before combining them together. However, this Ancient Yin-Yang Flame technique was actually the opposite. One was supposed to manifest the union of Yin and Yang together, and then separate them into the Yang Flame and the Yin Flame!

As to why there was a need to separate the flame into two components was because all ingredients, also either had a Yin or Yang nature. Yin ingredients naturally needed a Yin-type flame to

refine, while using the Yang-flame to provide minimal support for simulation purposes. While as for Yang ingredients, one had to use the tyrannical fiery energy of Yang-type flame to refine the essence within.

Many ingredients required Yang Flame in the beginning, followed by Yin Flames while ending off with Yang Flames again. Naturally, there were also exceptions. However, in order to successfully refine certain rare spiritual ingredients, one would require a flame that had the nature of both Yin and Yang.

The grey-colored ember from earlier had already dissipated, and thus, he reactivated his Ancient Strengthening Technique Qi as he tried to separate the Yin-Yang components. Eventually, Qing Shui's left hand was manifesting the Yang Flame while his right hand was manifesting the Yin Flame.

Practice makes perfect!

As time passed, it was akin to driving a carriage across a familiar route, comparable to a walk in the park. Gradually, the left side of Qing Shui's body began to get heated up while the right side of his body was frosty chill to the touch. Yin Yang, Yang Yin, it seemed like he was going to succeed. The nature of his body was currently, left – Yang and right – Yin.

If he couldn't even master it in the state of enlightenment, then it would probably mean that the technique was flawed. However Qing Shui was oblivious to the fact that the current him was in fact, in that state of enlightenment! All he knew was that he felt like there was a god assisting him today. From a gentle rap of a

pretty girl's hand, to unlocking alchemy and ancient flame techniques, it was as if he could do no wrong!

Could Wenren Wu-Shuang be his lucky star? His learning speed was lightning quick, especially after that rap of hers. Seems like he should hang out more often with her in the future and allow her to hit his head more often, who knows, maybe that was how he would achieve Xiantian.

Qing Shui quickly stopped all the distractive thoughts as he focused on mastering the <<Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang>>!

Qing Shui discovered that the moment he activated his Ancient Strengthening Technique, his body would no longer feel uncomfortable alternating between volcanic heat and frosty chill. The first time when he had experienced this feeling, he felt extremely bizarre, but now he only felt excitement.

To separate the Yin-Yang flame into its two components, required one to divide one's attention, and do two things at once while maintaining a calm state of mind. How many could truly be able to do that? Focusing on two extremely dangerous things at any one given moment, while remaining in a tranquil state.

Qing Shui could be said to have had a stroke of karmic luck this time around. If it was not for the state of enlightenment he was currently in, even if he spent 20 years, there was no way that he would be able to so quickly grasp the essence of that technique.

Peng, Peng!

On the surface of both of the palms of Qing Shui, once again, manifested embers roughly the size of one inch.

The Yang flame in his left hand was white, an ember the color of snow-white. The flame in his right hand was black, an ember the color of inky-black!

Bizarre, shocking!

Qing Shui looked at the two types of opposite-natured flame embers in his hands.

One was emitting an intense scorching aura, while the other was emitting an extremely frosty aura. Legend stated that the white flame was capable of even refining the souls of humans, while the bone-chilling black flame, was capable of injuring one's soul and spirit. However, the energy contained within, even though tyrannical, was insufficient for him to start refining the various spiritual ingredients. After all, his Ancient Strengthening Technique Qi, was only at the 3rd layer.

After getting more familiar with the technique by practicing a few more times, Qing Shui stopped as he began to inspect other unlocked information.

Hehehe, yet another good thing.

AST: Chapter 72 – Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique

Hehehe, yet another good thing.

Qing Shui salivated. This sudden burst of happiness caught him unawares. Happiness did indeed occurred at unexpected moments!

Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique!

Just looking over the name caused Qing Shui to be awed. He was sure that this needle technique definitely had connections with the <<Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang>>. Could all the techniques that were unlocked use the Ancient Strengthening Technique as their base? Are they able to complement each other to perfection.

“Let’s take a look first. Not counting this, the techniques I unlocked today: Alchemy and the Ancient Yin-Yang Flame technique, were already sufficient for me to benefit through my whole life.”

“It was not a mistake to immerse myself in gaming hahaha. Thank you, [Western Fantasy]!” Qing Shui grinned.

“Hmm, what the... this is a set of acupuncture technique!” Qing Shui was startled. Initially, he thought that this was a set of attacking techniques, but who would have thought that it was a set of acupuncture techniques instead!

“The Ancient Strengthening Technique, wants me to treat illnesses?” Puzzlement shone in his eyes, as he continued scanning the unlocked information.

The Primal Chaotic Divine Needle technique, was one of the original acupuncture techniques that existed back in the ancient times. One uses the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique as a base. Using the energy emitted by the Yin-Yang Flame, or otherwise known as the Primordial Fire, one can complement it with this particular set of needle technique to treat the illness and injuries of immortals and demons!

“Are you fucking serious? So overpowered!” Qing Shui almost drooled again, he definitely have to invest the time in learning this set of needle technique.

What are the problems that occurred most for Cultivators?

Injury, was one of the most common things that a cultivator would face. That was partly the reason why medical doctors and alchemists were such revered positions in this world of the nine continents. If one was able to let an extremely powerful cultivator owe you a favor, couldn't that also be considered a form of wealth?

“Now, I could be barely considered an Alchemist I suppose. Although I can only concoct the Golden Ointment, in the future I am sure to be a peerless alchemist. Every alchemist would start out as an outstanding doctor, as only doctors would be familiar with the effects and characteristics of various medicinal pills and

ingredients.”

This was really akin to being sent charcoal in the midst of a snowstorm! This surprise was just too unexpected, and the happiness that came about was too sudden. Six years... For 6 years, he had no hints of any breakthroughs. To think that now he would suddenly be entreated with so many godly techniques and knowledge. If this was a form of compensation, then Qing Shui felt he was extremely pleased with it.

The technique of the Primal Chaotic Divine Needle, the method of qi circulation, the acupoints, and the information about treatment for various illnesses flooded his mind. At this moment, Qing Shui could truly feel the awesomeness and mysteriousness of this particular set of needle technique.

Qing Shui in the sea of consciousness, envisioned faint shadows of two golden needles into existence, and slowly practiced.

How awesome is the sea of consciousness? I could create something out of nothing?

“Come, give me a beauty to hug!” Qing Shui lustily called out!

Ai, there was no response... Could it be that it only worked for things that would aid him in comprehending the techniques unlocked.....

“The techniques unlocked could really be complemented, and the

agility and nimbleness gained from practicing the Solitary Rapid Fist, were all displayed. They were all tremendously effective in aiding him in the understanding and usage of the Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique.”

Luck, was a type of skill too. This saying was verified by Qing Shui now. Were it not for his first bout of enlightenment, in which he mastered the essence of the Solitary Rapid Fist, then it wouldn't have been so easy for him to train in the Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique now.

The needle technique, other than curing illness, could also ignite the potential of one's talent, smoothen qi flow, aid in recovery, strengthen the body and quality of Yuan energy...

An unknown amount of time passed, and Qing Shui gradually started to awaken from that special state. He discovered that he still stood in the training hall at the peak level of the Night Fragrance Court, which was also the last place he remembered when Wenren Wu-Shuang lightly knocked his head.

“Ai, what's that smell, so unpleasant!” Qing Shui glanced around his surroundings, before focusing on his body.

“Fuck! This is Impurities Cleansing again!?” There was a grey layered of oil-like substances seeping out of Qing Shui's pores.

After exclaiming in delight, Qing Shui proceeded to strip naked, but just as he was about to enter the heated pool, Wenren Wu-Shuang arrived as she stared blankly at Qing Shui.

“HELP! There’s a pervert!!” Qing Shui shrieked, before swiftly jumping inside the pool.

“You... What are you saying!” Wenren Wu-Shuang probably wished that a hole would open up right now for her to hide inside.

Especially when she saw the thing dangling in between his legs, causing her cheeks to bloom with the redness of a sunset, shining with a strange radiance.

“Ah,” Qing Shui sobbed. “You have already seen my everything, how am I going to marry in the future! “ Qing Shui, putting on an appearance of extreme grief, and looked at Wenren Wu-Shuang as if he was just raped in the ass by 3 to 5 burly men.

“This... You naughty child, why did you strip naked without checking your surroundings, I still have yet to pursue this, you... You are a hooligan!” Wenren Wu-Shuang panicked. After all, she was a female, and that scene of Qing Shui naked, kept on appearing in her mind, unable to be wiped clean.

Qing Shui proceeded to finish washing himself. He of course, was very happy, although Wenren Wu-Shuang had unintentionally saw him naked, so what, he didn’t suffer any losses.

In his previous world, scientific records showed that 80% of males and females, after seeing the opposite sex’s naked bodies, would have some nefarious intentions...

“Hmm, could you help me to pass my clothes over first?” After washing himself, Qing Shui realized that his clothes were actually placed far away from the pool, so now, he could only helplessly beseech the help of this ravishing beauty, what a rare opportunity indeed.

Wenren Wu-Shuang froze as she glanced strangely at Qing Shui with a hidden bitterness in her eyes, before stomping her feet towards the pile of clothing and picking it up.

A wave of a manly smell whiffed straight into the nasal passages of Wenren Wu-Shuang, causing her already red cheeks to redden even further, accentuating her beauty even more.

“You wretched kid, you better call me elder sister. If not I won’t pass you the set of clothes. I all my life, I have never passed clothing to any man before.” Wenren Wu-Shuang said in a complicated tone of voice.

Qing Shui startled, but he somewhat understood what Wenren Wu-Shuang was saying, as a slight wave of disappointment rose in his heart, but swiftly, this feeling was pushed aside to the back of his mind. He understood that it was normal. He was nothing now, how could someone at the Xiantian level fall for him?

Nevermind, with efforts, one can achieve anything. There was no rush, the current him already enjoyed plenty of advantages. Chasing girls needed time and efforts too!

“Can I call you little sister instead?” Qing Shui asked, as grief clouded his features.

“Nope, you wretched kid, hurry up and call me respectfully, if not I will throw your clothes away. At that point in time, I wonder how you would be able to leave here then.” Wenren Wu-Shuang blinked her eyes as she said, somewhat adorably.

“Elder sister be obedient okay, please pass me back my clothes...”

AST: Chapter 73 – Qing Shui and Wenren Wu-Shuang

“Elder sister be obedient okay, please pass me back my clothes...”

Wenren Wu-Shuang slightly froze, as she did not know whether she should react in anger or laughter. Eventually, she chose the latter as she laughed, and tossed the pile of clothes to Qing Shui before walking out.

Qing Shui hurriedly put on his clothes after he completed washing the filth off his body. Feeling extremely invigorated, he walked out of the training hall with a smile on his face.

Seems like the impurities in my body are getting increasingly smaller. The filth excreted by the previous impurity cleansing was black in color, while now it looks grey. Just thinking about it caused Qing Shui to be filled with joy.

After he had put on his clothes Wenren Wu-Shuang returned, as she gazed at Qing Shui with a mysterious look in his eyes.

“You actually spent half a day in enlightenment, but why have you not broken through to Xiantian?” Wenren Wu-Shuang asked, curiosity evident in her tone.

“Enlightenment?” Qing Shui asked in a daze.

Wenren Wu-Shuang, paused, as if she was dumbstruck. It appeared that this little fellow still had no inkling that he just underwent a bout of enlightenment. Hei, what a retarded fellow, there were many who sought enlightenment their entire lives, but have never succeeded, and there is this little fellow in front of her.

Rolling her eyes, this fellow... he didn't even know he had just experienced enlightenment. Truly, are the heavens blind? Or does he have the favor and assistance of some Heavenly Deities.

“En, you entered into the state of enlightenment earlier, to think that you would be so lucky!” A part of Wenren Wu-Shuang wanted to smile, while another part of her felt somewhat accomplished, after all, it was because of her actions that Qing Shui could enter into that special state.

“Hmm, could I trouble you to help me again?” Qing Shui seriously asked.

Looking at the serious expression on Qing Shui face, Wenren Wu-Shuang couldn't help but giggle, as she replied “Speak, no matter what, as long as Elder Sister could help, I would definitely help!”

God, seems like this woman before me got addicted to being called an elder sister.

“Could you knock on my head again, maybe this is the secret to attain Xiantian.” Qing Shui slowly extended his neck over, while making sure he sneakily sniffed at the magnolia-like fragrance of Wenren Wu-Shuang's body.

“Do you believe I’ll hit you, you this big head ghost!” Wenwen Wu-Shuang couldn’t stop giggling as she extended her hand, and forcefully rapped onto Qing Shui’s head.

“Ahh, do you really want me to die, women are truly venomous creatures” Qing Shui exaggeratedly acted as he cried out in mock pain.

“How does it feel? To think that you experienced enlightenment but did not break through to Xiantian. I assume that the benefits you’ve gotten should be pretty good!” Wenren Wu-Shuang curiously inquired.

“I feel pretty good. I’m truly thankful to your precious little hand. Such grace, truly the epitome of femininity! With such a miraculous effect, how could I ever repay you. Ahh I know, sigh... There’s no choice, I will lower myself and marry you!”

“..... dream on!” Three black lines appeared on the top of Wu-Shuang’s head.

“C’mon gimme a chance, how do I begin to chase you? Give me a condition, no matter how harsh it is, it still represents a ray of hope for me. If not, then I will pine after you to the point of sickness!” To strike the snake, one must follow the rod. From his knowledge of his past world, Qing Shui knew that one of the tactics for chasing naive women, was to stick to them like a piece of sticky paper.

“You brat, stop talking nonsense. Keke, 10 years. I will give you 10 years to defeat me. If you still like me then, I will allow you to chase me, but there’s no guarantee that I would fall for you.” Wenren Wu-Shuang replied, somewhat seriously, yet mixed with a hint of humor.

“Okay, 10 years. In these 10 years I won’t allow you to be with other disgusting males. If you fall in love with some others, when I’m stronger, I will surely snatch you back. By then, you are not allowed to cry okay! By the way, the best idea is for you to remain single for 10 years, till I get stronger!” Qing Shui shamelessly replied.

“Pft, you still dare to continue, you best be careful I don’t beat you till you cry!” Wenren Wu-Shuang, unable to tolerate it anymore, decided to give Qing Shui a scolding.

Looking at the skies, Qing Shui knew that it was time for him to leave. The things that happened here today, still felt a bit surreal, he would definitely carve this day in his memories!

“I should return, if not my family will be worried about me.”

The casual words by Qing Shui, caused Wu-Shuang to be slightly hurt. Qing Shui unintentionally noticed her downcast expressions. As a person with two lifetimes of experiences, Qing Shui could tell what people are thinking usually from their microexpressions. As for Wenren Wu-Shuang, she was just too innocent, her emotions were all fully on display on her face.

“Little Shuangshuang, next time, you can treat me as your friend, or even your kin, or even better, even as your man. However, you are not allowed to hit me anymore, okay. No matter what difficulties you face, I will try my best to resolve them for you!” Qing Shui seriously said, gazing into her eyes.

Wenren Wu-Shuang slightly shuddered, but she did not reject Qing Shui. Maybe, she could feel the trace of tenderness in his heart. She only lightly smiled, as she reached out her hand and rubbed Qing Shui on his head.

“Ahh, touching my head, means you are taking advantage of me. Fine, since you are already mine, go on, take all the advantage you can, I’m a willing party.” Qing Shui grabbed hold of Wenren Wu-Shuang’s gentle hands and held them without letting go.

“Hmmp, are you asking for a beating? This little fellow is taking advantage of me again!” Wenren Wu-Shuang pulled back her hand while lightly berating Qing Shui.

“I’m already a man, not a little fellow...” Qing Shui replied, helplessly.

—

Qing Shui left the Night Fragrance Court, and when he turning his head to look at the beautiful lady in the window, he waved his hands in goodbye.

When he came out, he could still hear the slapping “pa pa” sounds of doggystyle, and moans of pleasure escaping from the other rooms.

“Fuck! I want to do it too”

The interior of the Night Fragrant Court was clad in warmth, akin to spring, while outside on the streets, one had to suffer the chill of winter. Luckily, what Qing Shui cultivated, was the tempering of his body. The chill had no way to invade his system.

He came here unintentionally, but left here with joy in his heart. It was just as comfortable as playing with a buxom lady. However, what would Qing Shui know of sex? What he knew was only through second-hand information such as films and novels from his previous world. His only physical intimate experience was with Yu He. However, earlier when he held Wu-Shuang’s hands, the feeling was not bad, actually capable of making his heartbeat quicken.

“Doing it with Wu-Shuang, should be extremely comfortable right?” Qing Shui started to fantasize again as his blood began to surge. In this state it was a miracle that he somehow managed to find his way back to a familiar street. Eventually, Qing Shui finally arrived back the Qing Clan’s medical store. To think that he reaped so much benefits just going out for one day.

“This is already my 2nd time experiencing enlightenment. For the majority of people, they would achieve Xiantian during their first enlightenment, but as for me, despite this being my second time, Xiantian still feels far away and as intangible as a dream.”

“Forget it, some things can’t be forced, maybe I would get closer to it if I stopped actively seeking it. In this world of the nine continents, how many people want to break through to Xiantian? Yet, how many people actually achieved it? Some things can’t be forced indeed.”

AST: Chapter 74 – Heavenly Eye Technique and Holy Sacred Hands Technique

When he returned back to the Qing Clan, Qing Shui saw Qing Yi was feeding the fishes and the turtles in the pond. Looking at the peaceful look on Qing Yi's face, Qing Shui felt a sense of satisfaction in his heart.

Hearing footsteps approaching, a smile broke out on her face as Qing Yi raised her head and saw that it was Qing Shui. "Qing Shui, come here! Look at the size of these fishes, what happened? I didn't seem to see them yesterday."

"Hmm, I think yesterday the fishes were hiding beneath the water plants. However, what happened to the other smaller fishes and prawns? The black fish have a ferocious nature, and seem to be capable of eating anything, and growing at a rapid rate. I suspect that the other smaller fishes must have been eaten by them." Qing Shui deduced.

These black fish, although bigger than the small fishes, were only at the size of a palm. When the black fish grew slightly larger inside his spatial realm, Qing Shui would sneakily transfer them out when they grew to the size of a palm. As for foot-long black fish, Qing Shui no longer dared to transfer them. They would eat everything they could see!

"Hmm, that may be so, there are too many water plants. However, wouldn't all the other small fishes and prawns be eaten by those black fish?" Qing Yi asked, as worry clouded her face.

“If this continues, then a few days later we would have nothing left except black fish and turtles!” Qing Shui had long anticipated this result, after all the same thing happened inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

“No worries, I will go and buy more of them in the future. Let’s try out the taste of some of the bigger fish.” Qing Shui already knew the taste, but he wanted to find an opportunity to give Qing Yi a chance to taste them too. Although the black fish have not grown to a satisfactory size, they were already big enough to be eaten.

“Hmm they are still too small. There is no hurry, if you want to eat, we can buy them outside.” Qing Yi said, smilingly.

“There are so many of them in the pond, it doesn’t matter if they are a bit smaller in size, I can guarantee that those fish sold outside wouldn’t be as tasty as these,” Qing Shui laughed, as he directly caught a few fish.

“Enough, enough!” Qing Yi called out, stopping Qing Shui, who was intending to catch a few more fish.

Qing Shui knew that Qing Yi’s cooking skills were among the cream of the crop. He licked his lips, as he knew that in the future even without him saying anything, there would be something delicious for dinner every night.

The sound of the chopsticks on the dinner table clicked at a speed that left Qing Shui astounded. He bitterly looked at his bowl of rice and his uncle Qing Hu, and Qing Shan and Qing Shi beside him who were devouring the fish with gusto.

“I have never eaten such a delicious fish, it tastes even better than what we had at the Yu He Inn!” Qing Hu rubbed his belly and mentioned with satisfaction, as Qing Shan and Qing Shi both rapidly nodded their heads in agreement.

During the night, Qing Shui once again entered inside his spatial realm. He sighed, thinking that this place was still the best. Another day had passed, and the foot-long black fish had stopped growing in size, the only difference was that the luster of their scales were even brighter, while the turtles on the other hand, grew slightly bigger and increasingly nimble.

Qing Shui could finally let himself relax. Initially he thought that the black fish would continue to grow in size, and if that had been the case, then he would have no solutions for it. After all the size of the crystal pond in his spatial realm was limited too.

As for the turtles, in normal circumstances, they would already enjoy a long lifespan. In this world of the nine continents, there were many wild beasts, ferocious beasts and even desolate beasts, who died of old age before they could form their demonic cores at the age of 500. Only beasts which could meet certain fortuitous events, such as consuming various spiritual herbs and fruits to extend their lifespans, or creatures such as turtles and tortoises. It was extremely tough to evolve into a demonic beast.

That was why, Qing Shui had no worries that the fish would evolve into demonic beasts. It was even harder for beasts to reach the Xiantian state, tougher even than ascending the heavens. As for the black turtles, there were various records of turtles over 1,000 years old, but still couldn't even be considered at the desolate level. There was no guarantee that beasts would evolve and form their core after 500 years.

However for meat of turtles, the older they were, the more nourishing they would be! That was why Qing Shui had no qualms about rearing them till they are a few hundred years old, or even above 1,000 years old, so he could taste their meat.

Legend has it that the meat from demonic beasts were the tastiest, but those who had really tasted it, could be counted on one hand. Qing Shui felt an itch in his heart. In the future when he was strong enough, he would definitely hunt a few demonic beasts in order to taste their flesh.

Inside the spatial realm, there were many techniques for Qing Shui to focus his training upon. However, he wasn't the slightest bit concerned. After all, what he had was nearly unlimited time.

When he was hungry, he would simply grill a fish, when he was tired, he would drink some water and take a rest. He had even moved a bed inside the spatial realm. Other than that, Qing Shui also discovered that the spatial realm was capable of keeping even seasoning ingredients fresh, and thus, he had moved a large quantity of salt and other seasoning ingredients to be stored inside the spatial realm. After all, seasoning was like the joy of life, food

with no seasoning added, would only be 2nd grade at best, dull and tasteless.

“Primordial Fire!” Qing Shui extended both his palms, and on the surface of both palms were tiny grey-colored embers, rotating around. Using that flame, Qing Shui slowly grilled the fishes.

The primordial fire saps his energy level too quickly. Qing Shui could only maintain the Yin-Yang Flame for about four hours. After all, he was only at the 3rd layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Sitting down inside the spatial realm contently, after his hunger had been sated, Qing Shui once again tidied up all the information that was unlocked after his breakthrough. To his immense surprise, he discovered two other techniques – Heavenly Vision Technique, and Holy Sacred Hands!

After studying the content of both techniques, Qing Shui discovered that the techniques were medical-based. For the Heavenly Vision Technique, when he activated the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, then it would grant him an “x-ray” kind of vision, where he could peer at the inner organs and mystical energy channels in the human body in order to pinpoint the area of injury or problem easily.

While the Holy Sacred Hands, was able to set bones, increase the accuracy of his hand movements, and increase his speed and agility. Other than that, when this technique was activated, Qing Shui could infuse his hands with the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and transfer it to the patient’s body,

giving the patient's body immense benefits.

Qing Shui was already numbed from the discoveries. Merely just unlocking Alchemy would already be sufficient to last him for his life time. To think that now, there were two other innate techniques that could be used in conjunction, increasing his medical skills. Each one of them caused Qing Shui to tremble in anticipation, the Ancient Strengthening Technique was truly the best indeed!

Unlocking Alchemy through enlightenment, could it be that the other greyed-out sections in his sea of consciousness could only be unlocked after even more bouts of enlightenment?

Enlightenment! Peering into the way of the Heavens! When would it be again before he could experience another one?

Luckily for Qing Shui, both the basics of the Heavenly Vision and the Holy Sacred Hands techniques were extremely easy to be proficient in. All of the techniques had the same concept, they were all dependent on the Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

What a pity that his strength was only at the 3rd Layer. If he broke through to the 4th, without a doubt, Qing Shui knew that he would definitely step inside the realm of Xiantian!

AST: Chapter 75 – Troublesome Black fishes

For the past two days, Qing Shui immersed himself fully into his cultivation, and understanding the techniques that he had uncovered. Now that he'd gotten a taste of how powerful Xiantian Qi was, he couldn't wait to break through to it.

These past two days, the Yu He Inn hired a new chef with extraordinary skills. Be it steaming, grilling, braising, frying, or even making soup, the taste of the dishes could only be described as as mouthwatering as a celestial banquet.

During these two days, there were many in the city, even visitors from outside the city, who had heard about the news of the heavenly food, but the majority of them merely treated it as a rumor. After all, a dish was still just a dish. How extraordinary and outstanding could the taste of a dish be?

However, truth soon prevailed, because emanating from the Yu He Inn was an irresistible aroma of cooked fish that seemed to perpetually waft out to the streets, which caused the majority of the crowd to salivate, whetting their appetites and attracting them over. The aroma of the fish were so satisfying that just by breathing in the smell of the cooked fish, one could almost imagine themselves tasting the fish.

The most important factor was that there is only a limited number of black fish that the Yu He Inn would sell each day. Even when the prices were outrageously high, there would still be people queuing in line for it. Eventually, only those with money and status, could enjoy the fish, which caused Yu He to feel

somewhat helpless. After all, the supply of 10 fish per day did seem to be too little for the size and reputation of a high class inn like the Yu He Inn.

Despite the low number of fish supplied, the news regarding the taste of the fish got more and more exaggerated, drawing even more visitors in while boosting the name of the Yu He Inn.

As the Yu Clan was one of the four great clans in Hundred Miles City, although there were many customers who were unhappy with the low number of fish sold, they did not dare to make a ruckus openly. However, soon afterwards, the elders of the Yu Clan came to know about this matter, and after they had had their first taste of the meat, they were unable to stop themselves. How could a mere 10 fish per day be enough to be split amongst them?

As someone from the junior generation, Yu He was truly put in a difficult position. The various elders had all watched her growing up, and had over 10 years of an extremely deep relationship with her father. Furthermore, what was money to them? Even if the black fish was worth two times, or even 10 times more, it would still not bother them the slightest.

Yu He, under great pressure, could only cave in to the old fellows' demands. After all they were all the pillars of Hundred Miles City.

Naturally, after people saw how prosperous Yu He Inn's business was, they too wanted a slice of the cake. Using every possible means, they tried to uncover the secret behind the new chef.

Although Yu He did not disclose any information, there were bound to be spies, as well as servants who were more talkative, trying to get close to her daily.

Extremely tired of their hassle, Yu He started to let out depressed sighs every time the black fish were mentioned, as involuntarily, the figure of a young man would appear in her mind. 10 fish per day were truly too little. What was going through Qing Shui's head? Why did he refuse to earn such easy money? She really felt like hitting him right then.

“Hmm, but still, he did say that these fish were reared using a secret breeding method, and thus the supply of them was extremely low. 10 fish per day was already the absolute maximum number he could afford to sell me.” Yu He thought back to Qing Shui's words.

There were many who begged Yu He to sell them more black fish but helplessly, she could only use reasons such as prior bookings, immense amounts of efforts needed to cook the fish, lack of manpower etc to deny their requests.

“No, this can't be allowed to continue, after the discussion with uncle hong, the 100 black fish that were supposed to last for 10 days have already been depleted by half after three days. We must restrict the amount of fish being sold even further.”

There were many scheming people within the customers who wanted to headhunt the head chef, but Yu He was not worried, after all no matter how good the chef was, it was still useless. The key point to this whole thing was that young man named Qing

Shui!

At the northern region of Hundred Miles City, there were an ancient looking yet elegantly designed pavilion! The interior of the pavilion was exquisitely designed, with no considerations being given to cost, signifying that the owner of this place was someone who was extremely wealthy and had an extraordinary status.

“Have your investigations revealed who was the main chef over at Yu He Inn?” A middle-aged, tall and sturdily built man, with moustache akin to steel needles, with eyes that flashed like lightning, in a embroidered satin robe with two arms, that were longer in length compared to ordinary humans, questioned in a low voice.

“Useless trash, get lost. You better open your eyes wide and monitor the movements of anyone you deem suspicious at the Yu He Inn. Scram.”

“Roger that!” The figure, who had his back bent in a deep bow for the whole conversation, rapidly retreated!

A kind looking old man, carried a black fish in a plate, walked over as he stated, ”Ba`er, let us try the fish.”

“Ah, Uncle Lei, you should just get the servants to serve us. Come come, let us eat. Eating with Uncle Lei is sure to bring out the true tastiness of the dish. However, this fish... is really something, even we our statuses, we could only eat one per day. How unsatisfying!” Situ Ba angrily stated, as he led the old man to the dining table.

The old man inclined his head in agreement, as the two of them began to savor the fish, both of them were bonded by mutual understanding.

“Excellent excellent, this fish truly delicious, every time I taste it, I could never have enough. Fuck this.” The old man unhappily said.

“If we can headhunt the main chef over at the Yu He Inn, we could manage to eat this every day. However, the Yu Clan is really good at keeping mum. Till now there hasn’t been any news regarding who the main chef was.”

“Main chef my foot.” The old man snorted. “Myself, with my vast years of experiences can tell that there is no “main chef” at the Yu He Inn. The special taste, can be produced by anyone. The only secret to this, is the fish. No matter the smell, the taste, the feeling when you chew on the meat, all this originated from the fish.” The old man who was named Uncle Lei, ate rapidly as he talked.

Situ Ba was dumbstruck, this Uncle Lei was the valued guest of his Situ Clan and was an extremely close friend with Situ Nantian. This person, was a Precious-Graded Alchemist. Even in the bigger cities of the continent, his status would still be extremely revered.

“What? Uncle Lei you said that this fish is the secret? There’s no main chef?”

“Although I’m old, my eye power is still pretty good. You should

know that they only sell 10 fish per day, which means that these type of fish can not be mass breed, that why they have to control the supply.” A sinister light shone in his eyes as Uncle Lei explained.

“Uncle Lei, do you think we should investigate the source of this black fish instead? If there were a huge batch, in the near future, we would all be rolling in riches. By then, recruiting Xiantian Cultivators to aid my Situ Clan would no longer be a problem.” The gleam in Situ Ba’s eyes, mirrored that of the old man.

“Although it might be difficult, we cannot give up as long as there’s a strand of hope. 10 fish to fill a bucket, arrange some men to keep watch on the main doors and side entrances of the Yu He Inn for anyone that seems to be transporting something.” Uncle Lei smiled, as he lost himself in the delicious taste of the black fish.

Qing Shui, had no inkling of the troubles his black fish had caused, and had no idea how depressed Yu He was because of this matter. Naturally, he did not know of the plans that were hatched by the Situ Clan.

AST: Chapter 76 – Once Again, Taking Advantage of Yu He

Cultivating inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal before he was forced out, Qing Shui grumbled as he found himself back on the bed. After all, almost every time he entered the spatial realm, and up to the time the “entry time” ended, it would be late at night.

The second day, he awoke early, and made his way to the courtyard.

From afar, Qing Shi had approached and greeted Qing Shui from a distance, as Qing Shui happily replied, “Good morning to you too!” All of a sudden, unknowingly, he somehow activated the Heavenly Eye Technique, and the inner organs and the mystical energy channels and meridians of Qing Shi were visible to him.

However, he soon noticed that the drain on his energy reserves were even greater than the time when he had activated the Ancient Yin-Yang flames!

At this moment, Qing Shui was pleasantly surprised, in the field of medicine, there were many sickness or diseases that could be diagnosed easily through methods such as pulse taking, and cured with prescription of the correct dosage of medicine.

However, there were many others such as internal injuries, or pre-existing illnesses such as cancer that were not so easily diagnosed until after the first wave of effects appeared.

“The Heavenly Vision Technique, is even more effective than x-rays from my previous world!” Qing Shui dumbly stood there. Before this, he was already awed by the Heavenly Vision Technique, but it was only now did he truly realize how powerful it actually was.

Earlier, when he glanced at Qing Shi, Qing Shui realized that many of Qing Shi’s energy channels were many times thinner when compared to his own, and the openings of Qing Shi’s energy channels were sealed, causing the flow of energy to be very weak or even stopped by the blockage. As for inner organs, and bone structure, Qing Shi appeared just slightly better than an ordinary human. Upon further contemplation, Qing Shui guessed that the factor behind the thinner than normal energy channels was probably the reason why Qing Shi’s combat ability was so low.

“Qing Shui, what happened, why are you dumbstruck?!” Qing Shi gently shook Qing Shui.

“Ah, nothing, I just suddenly thought of something!” Qing Shui perfunctorily said.

“Hehe, are you thinking about a woman?”

Now that two young men were hanging out together, seeing as they had nothing to do, they would start to crack jokes about everything under the sun. Chatting left and right about who were the prettiest girls from which of the various clans, their looks, their figures, their mannerisms and all the way even to some

downright lewd topics regarding the type of women they fancied and about their fantasies...

After their discussion, they commenced the daily morning cultivation practice, with Qing Shui guiding Qing Shi. Naturally, Qing Shui could not be bothered to practice himself. After all, with a treasure like the spatial realm, how could anyone still waste their time cultivating outside of it?

Soon after, both Qing Yi and Yuanying, called out to them, telling them that it was time to eat. From the aroma drifting towards them, Qing Shui could instantly tell that they had prepared the black fish for the breakfast.

“Haha, seems like we would have the chance to eat something delicious for breakfast later!” Qing Shi happily exclaimed after their morning practice.

As Qing Shui was about to reply, he caught sight of someone entering the Qing Clan’s medical store, and that person was a ravishing beauty!

Yu He!

When Yu He saw Qing Shui, her eyes flashed with brightness as she stuck out her tongue at Qing Shui. That adorable action of hers caused both Qing Shui and Qing Shi to be stunned, standing there like idiots.

“Wha...What are you doing here?” Puzzlement shone in his eyes as Qing Shui questioned, after all, only 4-5 days had passed, prior to their 10 days agreement.

“Oh, so you don’t welcome me!” Yu He pouted at Qing Shui.

“Nonononono, how can that be? You are always on my mind, a lady as gracious as you, it would always be my pleasure to welcome you! Only this visit is too sudden, catching me unawares.” Qing Shui quickly replied. It was true that the memory of him colliding with Yu He had always been hovering about in his mind.

That feeling, even when dreaming, Qing Shui would drool about it!

As the voices of their discussion rang out, Qing Yi and a few others, upon hearing Yu He’s voice, came out and invited her into the room. From his observations, Qing Shui knew that his mother and Yu He had quite a friendly relationship.

When Qing Shui entered the room, the first thing he saw, were seven to eight piles of money lying on the table while three black lines appeared on his forehead. “Nooo, my money.” He failed to notice the look of hidden bitterness that Yu He shot him. When he finally calmed down, he could only grin sheepishly at Yu He. After all, it was him that proposed the limit of 10 fish per day.

Qing Shui was the only one feeling uncomfortable as they began dining, the table erupted with laughter as Yu He constantly flashed the thumb up gesture, complementing Qing Yi on her cooking.

Normally, Qing Shui would feel blissful to have such a beautiful lady eating breakfast with him, and most importantly, Yu He was the type of woman that Qing Shui loved. However, from his observations, he could tell that there was a deeper meaning behind Yu He's sudden visit.

“Sister Qing Yi, this fish is really delicious.”

“Pu!” Qing Shui accidentally choked on his food.

Qing Yi looked at Qing Shui strangely, why would Qing Shui suddenly have such a huge reaction. What was even more weird, why was Yu He suddenly calling her sister? Although their relationship was not bad, surely it hadn't developed to the point of calling each other sisters yet.

While Yu He, was incomparably joyful, just by watching how Qing Shui ate, it already caused her to break into smiles. However, whenever their gazes met, Qing Yi would notice traces of happiness, fascination and even complexity in the eyes of Yu He.

When they finished the meal and Yu He was about to leave, she suddenly paused and look to Qing Shui before stating, “Qing Shui, how about sending me out, Aunt Yu wants to speak to you about a few things!”

Qing Shui, noticing the signal Qing Yi was giving him, instantly nodded his head in agreement as he walked Yu He out.

“What Confucius said was right, both women and despicable men are truly tough to handle!” Qing Shui mumbled under his breath as he walked towards Yu He.

“What are you mumbling about, I didn’t quite catch that.” Yu He

“I said that Auntie Yu’s charm soars all the way to the 9 heavens, and was wondering which lucky male would steal your heart away!”

“Little bonehead, why did you suddenly choke out loud during breakfast earlier, I’m very curious!” Yu He smiling asked as she looked to Qing Shui.

Looking at Yu He, Qing Shui could not help but gulp as memory of their accidental collision surfaced, how attractive she was, how beautiful she was, this was all he could think about. He felt a sudden, extremely intense impulse to hug her.

“Auntie Yu, I was wrong!” After which Qing Shui collapsed right into the middle of the deep valley between the twin peaks of Yu He, with his hands around her back, tight in an embrace. Naturally, he did not forget to take the chance to smell the fragrance of her body.

Yu He gasped, as she froze, even forgetting to push away Qing Shui who was blatantly eating her tofu.

Qing Shui didn't know when was it that he had acquired such balls, but since the deed was already done, he might as well enjoy it, right? Closing his eyes, he began to motorboat his head about left and right, in between the twin peaks of Yu He's chest, when suddenly, he could feel two bud-like things erect as he was drowning in ecstasy. Without thinking, he gave in to instinct. Qing Shui opened his mouth and gently sucked on one of the pointed bud-like things through the thin layer of Yu He's robe.

Qing Shui had never experienced such a wonderful feeling before!

“Ah!” Finally after she recovered, Yu He violently push Qing Shui away, her face flushed in anger while her eyes turned watery, it seemed as though she was about to break down and cry.

“Y... you are bullying me!”

Even though Yu He looked terrified and miserable, there were no hints of hysteria. Qing Shui felt that the Yu He now, felt strangely even more appealing. Without any traces of the air of a successful young entrepreneur, but was something more like a weak and gentle little woman who had suffered a lot through her life.

AST: Chapter 77 – Another Xiantian

“Y... you are bullying me!”

Looking at Yu He’s expression that was akin to a weak and helpless woman, a wave of heat surged through his body. He executed the same action he did previously, and hugged her into an embrace. Although the actions were similar, there was no sexual intent in this embrace.

“I’m sorry, I will take responsibility for it!” Qing Shui’s heart slightly shuddered with pain as he glanced at the tear-streaked face of Yu He, before seriously making his statement.

“Responsibility?” Yu He was dumbstruck, as she involuntarily questioned.

“Er... Be my woman, I will marry you and treat you well.” Qing Shui rubbed his nose, as he awkwardly spoke.

After a short moment, Yu He couldn’t help but laugh. That laughter, was like raindrops on a pear blossom, and she herself had no idea why she was laughing. She was not laughing at Qing Shui, who wanted to eat the flesh of a swan^[1]. After all, in her mind she was not worthy to be compared to a swan, while Qing Shui was definitely not a hideous toad. Her laughter, was directed towards herself, and it was tinged with helplessness.

“Why are you laughing? Did you fall in love with me? After spending time with me, did you realize all my good points?”

Yu He continued laughing as she stared at the serious young man in front of her. She was bewildered at herself. She had no adverse reaction towards the earlier vulgar actions of Qing Shui, and only felt that Qing Shui had somehow touched on a soft spot in her heart. Other than feeling slight discomfort, there was even a hint of excitement, Yu He was blushing as she recalled that moment.

“You are still so young, don’t say things on impulse. I will forgive your naughtiness once. If there’s a next time, I will not show you any mercy.” Yu He bared her teeth ferociously at Qing Shui after that.

Qing Shui could not help but feel that Yu He had the adorableness of a younger women. He did not know should he be happy or crestfallen upon hearing her words.

“Aunty Yu!”

“WHAT?! Call me Sister Yu!”

Qing Shui, “.....”

“Do you have something to talk to me about?”

“Yeah, about the black fish.” Yu He had recovered from her shock earlier, she swept her hair behind her ears, emitting the air of a mature woman as she spoke.

“Did you find the supply of 10 fish per day too little?”

“Yes, those with money and status have all booked it. Even people from outside the city would camp around in my inn daily, and complain. Do you think you would be able to provide more fish for me?” Yu He blinked her beautiful eyes, as she charmingly beseeched Qing Shui.

The two of them walked side by side towards the Yu He Inn. There were many in the crowd of people on the streets frequently staring at them; they gave off the feeling that they would make a good couple. Qing Shui was handsome and tall, and more importantly, he emitted a sense of gentleness and poise that was lacking in most adult men, causing people to be envious and making them want to become closer. His eyes were especially charming, and that purple speck between his brows seemed to give him a slightly demonic air, capable of bewitching even more people.

Yu He, her voluptuous figure was exquisite, like jade. She was a head shorter than Qing Shui, and that smile of hers contained slight traces of flirtatiousness. Her eyes, were limpid and clear, while her nose like a jade carving. Her twin peaks and that full perky bottom of hers looked as well-rounded as melons, and when coupled with milky white slender legs, it was a combination that all men would find it hard to resist.

The two of them chatted as they strolled the streets, and in the end, Qing Shui agreed to increase the number of fish provided to 20. This was the limit he said, if not, the black fish would no longer be as popular.

“Oh right, the matter of the black fish has already noticed by others, you better act more carefully. I’m afraid they would try to create trouble for you.” Yu He explained as worry was painted over her face.

Qing Shui felt that this was no surprise. Things that invoked jealousy, would surely attract attention!

“I suspect they are already keeping tabs on the people near us, seeing who we interact with, as they try to find the source of the black fish.” Qing Shui said thoughtfully.

Qing Shui in actuality, had already discovered people spying on him. As a result of his unique way of cultivation, his senses were many times sharper than other cultivators. Even the senses of some Xiantian cultivators may not be as sharp as him.

“Do you want to smoke them out?” Yu He furrowed her brows.

“No, let’s not alert them prematurely, after all, all these spies are just henchmen with no authority.”

“Then how will you be able to deliver the fish to me?” Yu He creased her forehead. After all, this was a very big problem, and their opponent was hiding in the dark, which means they have no intentions of clashing head on with the Yu clan.

“Don’t worry, leave this to me. I will find a way to stealthily pass

you the fish.” Qing Shui blinked his eyes as he reassured Yu He.

Very quickly, they arrived at the Yu He Inn. Because it was still in the morning, there weren't many customers. Qing Shui took a quick glance at the surroundings – two couples, three teenagers, two tall and sturdy middle-aged men, and a table of eight people consisting of three girls and five guys.

Qing Shui then glanced at the seat near the window where there was an elderly old man and a young man drinking wine together. The old man had a head full of white hair, displaying an aura of extremely old age, and was decked out in ordinary clothing. However, if one were to inspect him closely, one would notice the bright shine in his eyes, while his skin was as fair as a baby. He looked like some celestial hermit up the mountains, inadvertently causing people to look again.

As for that youth, he was handsome looking with sword shaped eyebrows, a straight nose, and thin lips. Just from a look, Qing Shui could tell that this young man before him had unwavering determination. His body was tall, and the clothes he wore were all intricately designed, which indicated that he was a person of wealth. The most attention grabbing thing was the aura he emitted, akin to that of a unsheathed sharp sword.

“Interesting!” A thought flashed past Qing Shui's mind.

As he swept his gaze back to the old man, he discovered that the old man was also watching him with interest. That gaze of that old man was incredibly mysterious. Qing Shui lightly nodded his head towards him, as the old man let out a smile. However that smile

had no hints of friendliness in it, and caused Qing Shui to feel as if he was trapped in a cage, unable to break free.

Shock arose in Qing Shui's heart, as he could feel that the energy contained within the gaze of the old man was similar to something he had experienced before.

“Fuck, another Xiantian, why does Hundred Miles City have so many Xiantian cultivators all of a sudden? Also, it seems like he is much stronger compared to Wenren Wu-Shuang. He should have broken through to the Xiantian realm ages ago.” Qing Shui silently deduced.

When Qing Shui silently activated his Heavenly Vision Technique, he could clearly see rays of rainbow flashing through the eyes of the old man, but he had no time to ponder over this. That was because Qing Shui had discovered that the Dantian of the old man appeared to be severely damaged. The shape of his Dantian had bent into a shape resembling “W”. Several energy channels near his Dantian were extremely thin when compared to the other thick energy channels around the old man's body.

Qing Shui could feel that Xiantian Qi of the old man was surrounding him as he turned his head to look at Yu He, realizing that she had no knowledge of what was happening. He knew that he was the target of the old man. From the quality of his Qi, Qing Shui could tell that that old man was most assuredly an expert, it was just that he didn't understand why the old man would be interested in him.

Actually, the reason the old man was so interested in Qing Shui

was because he realized that somehow, he couldn't see through Qing Shui. If Qing Shui was a old man at the Xiantian realm, the Xiantian old man would have thought nothing of it. However, Qing Shui was obviously below 20 years of age, and thus invoked great curiosity and interest in him.

“Little brother, do you mind to accompany this old man for a drink or two?”

As a kind voice sounded out, Qing Shui felt his body loosen, as he knew that the old man had retracted his Xiantian Qi.

Qing Shui froze before quickly recovering with a smile. However, the young man beside the old man, turned his sharp gaze upon Qing Shui, as if he wanted to challenge him.

[1] eating flesh of a swan – chinese idiom meaning lusting over beautiful woman. The full idiom = a hideous toad wanting to eat the flesh of a swan.

AST: Chapter 78 – Baili Jingwei

“Sister Yu, could you get the kitchen to serve two of the black fish for this venerable old man?” Qing Shui smiled as he looked over at Yu He.

Yu He nodded her head, and went off to make the arrangements.

Qing Shui made his way to the table of the old man, as he asked, “May I know the reason why are you looking for me?” Qing Shui directed the question to the old man, as he sat down next to the youth.

“Oh, nothing of importance, I just feel that we were fated to meet. In any case, the first time I lay my eyes on little brother, I could feel that we share a special kind of connection!” The old man joyfully exclaimed, his voice radiated extreme kindness, causing others to feel extremely comfortable.

“I dare not accept your praises. You can just refer to me as Qing Shui, or little brother. I too, feel that it was fate that we met here today.” Qing Shui rubbed the back of his head as he exclaimed.

“Qing Shui, what a good name. My name is Baili Jingwei, and this is my grandson, Baili Wufeng, and we just came here for a holiday. My surname is Baili, and I had always felt a sense of connection to Hundred Miles City.[1]Recently, I heard that this inn was extremely famous for the black fish, and thus wanted to see if I can enjoy the taste. Alas, there is a limit of 10 fish, and all the fish have been sold out. Now I can only wait for tomorrow, how

regretful.” Baili Jingwei gently explained.

This old man was truly benevolent. As a Xiantian Cultivator, despite the damage his energy channels and Dantian suffered, he could easily make use of his strength and status to enjoy eating the black fish. There was no need for him to follow the stupid rules.

“Old Man, coincidentally, I know the boss here. Don’t worry, you will be able to enjoy the fish very soon.” Qing Shui exclaimed, feeling slightly embarrassed. After all, he was the supplier of the black fish.

“Oh, if that is the case, this is excellent, didn’t I say that it was fated for us to meet here! Excellent, I can’t wait to taste and see if the fish is as good as the rumors.” Baili Jingwei laughed.

“If we were forceful enough, we could have already enjoyed the taste of the fish. Grandfather, you should not say so many good things to him. We should not depend on the help of outsiders!” Baili Wufeng lifted a cup of wine, as he exclaimed in unhappiness.

“Wufeng, the reason why I brought you here, was to let you see the sights and learn how to interact with other people. Strength is not the answer to everything. What if you met a problem that was unable to be resolved by strength? What would you do?” Baili Jingwei gently berated his grandson.

Looking at the wise and farsighted Baili Jingwei, Qing Shui could feel that this old man before him was someone who had already been through a lot of experiences and understood a lot of things.

Looking at the clearness tinged with sadness in the eyes of Baili Jingwei, Qing Shui could not help but feel that he was staring at some hermit of ages past.

“Wufeng, remember this, if you want to build a foothold for yourself in the world of the nine continents, and to accomplish great things, human connections are extremely important. What can you do with the strength of one man? Death is the only result.”

“I’ve understood, Grandfather!”

Baili Jingwei smiled as he continued, “You often stay at home, only focusing on your cultivation, and look down upon others. However, there will always be people stronger than you. How powerful do you think you are, among the youths of your generation.”

“Baili Wufeng lowered his head as he thought, “Strength wise, there are no more than 10 people under the age of 30 in the Cang Lang Country who are able to defeat me.”

“Wufeng, do you really think that you are that unparalleled under the realm of Xiantian? That way of thinking is nothing but a frog living at the bottom of the well. Not to mention that in the Cang Lang Country, there are already more than 10 Xiantian Cultivators under the age of 30. Even the youth sitting beside you could defeat you within 10 moves.”

The sharp gaze of Baili Wufeng stare fixedly at Qing Shui, as his eyes were clouding over with suspicion. However, the words came

from the mouth of his grandfather, and shouldn't be false, but he still found it hard to accept that in such a small place like Hundred Miles City, there could be someone that could defeat him. Wufeng found it unbelievable.

Qing Shui was surprised too, he didn't expected that he too would be dragged within the conversation of Baili Jingwei. Just glancing at the mannerisms of Baili Wufeng, Qing Shui knew that sooner or later, this young guy would come after him for sparring.

“Old man, stop joking.” Qing Shui laughed out loud.

Baili Jingwei only smiled, but from the look in his eyes which encompassed wisdom, acceptance, and kindness, Qing Shui felt that all his secrets were being pried bare in front of the old man.

At this moment, two lovely waitresses brought over the black fish that caused such a stir in Hundred Miles City. The delicious smell wafted all about the inn, causing the other customers to gaze in their direction with a trace of envy.

“That smell, how appetizing, this old man has been to a lot of places, but has never smelled something like this before.” Baili Jingwei lightly casted a glance at the black fish as he said.

“Come, Qing Shui, Wufeng, let's eat and chat together!”

Qing Shui stopped after two mouthfuls, as he watched the grandfather and grandson duo stuffing themselves with the

delicious fish.

“I was wrong. Initially, I thought that the Heavenly Mortal World Inn in the Cang Lang Country served the best dishes and wine. However, they absolutely could not be compared to this black fish. Although the smell was similar, but the moment you taste it, you can clearly tell the difference!” Baili Jingwei, unglamorously said, with his mouth full of fish meat.

“Truly, I did not think that this trip to the Hundred Miles City would result in such a gain, not only did we manage to feast on such heavenly fish, I also get to know a friend such as you. Qing Shui come, let us toast each other!” Baili Jingwei raised his wine cup.

Qing Shui hurriedly raise his wine cup.

“Old Man, you guys are from the Cang Lang Country?” Qing Shui randomly asked.

“En, you are right; is there anything you want to know? This old man could still be considered knowledgeable about the things ongoing in Cang Lang Country. I’ve said earlier that we are fated to meet here, if little brother has any problems that require my help, just ask me. After all, I do still have some status over in Cang Lang Country.” The old man, from observing Qing Shui’s expressions, knew that Qing Shui had some questions in his heart, or even needed to execute a difficult task.

“Old man, how’s the strength of the Yan Clan, in the Yan Capital

of the Yan Jiang country?”

AST: Chapter 79 – Cang Lang Country of the Greencloud Continent

“Old man, how’s the strength of the Yan Clan, in the Yan Capital of the Yan Jiang country?”

Baili Jingwei gazed at Qing Shui, laughing as he answered with another question. “How much do you know about the world of the nine continents, or how’s your knowledge and familiarity with the Cang Lang country, and how much do you understand about your own power?”

Under the sudden onslaught of the three questions, Qing Shui realized that truly, he did not know much, but since he didn’t understand, all he had to do was ask! The old man in front of him was definitely not someone ordinary. He should grab this chance to broaden his knowledge regarding this world he was living in.

“Please enlighten this young one.” Qing Shui sincerely implored.

Baili Jingwei smiled as he nodded his head.

“Under the heavens of the nine continents, our Greencloud continent is located at the westernmost boundary of this world. However, did you know that at the northern and western border of the continent, terrifying danger is abound everywhere. For example in the western region is the 10 million li mountains, which no one has traversed the entirety of it before, partly due to insufficient food and water.”

Qing Shui listened calmly as his thoughts spun back to the half-a-year span of time which he had spent in there.

Cang Lang country is one of the 81 countries in the Greencloud continent, and is also located in the westernmost region. The land size that it occupied was immense, and was in a good strategic location.

“The people in the Cang Lang country, including the cultivators, there are very few of them who have left the country before. The majority of the citizens of the Cang Lang country would at most visit the boundaries between the Cang Lang country and other countries, or they would at most only travel to one of the 81 cities located within the country. Hundred Miles City is one such city, but it was one of the weakest and smallest cities.”

Qing Shui naturally knew this, as it was extremely tough just to find a Xiantian Cultivator in this city.

Baili Jingwei drank a sip of tea from his cup, as he swept his gaze onto the crowd on the streets as he lightly said, “Yan Capital is the capital of the Yan Jiang Country. And the Yan Clan could be considered the “royal” clan of the Yan Capital, and is the protector of the Yan Capital. As for the true strength of the Yan Clan, even I could not be certain. After all the strength which they reveal could just be a facade. After all, I’m not from the Yan Jiang Country, so there’s no way I could tell you for certain. However, one thing is for sure, the Yan Clan would definitely possess more than one Xiantian cultivator.

The words of Baili Jingwei caused Qing Shui to suck in a cold breath, so the Yan Clan could be considered the protector of an entire country. This spoke volumes about their strength!

“And here I was still thinking to stomp the Yan Clan after reaching Xiantian, what a joke, what a childish joke. That promise I made to mother, saying to give me five years of time... Could I defeat the entire Yan Clan in five years?” Qing Shui felt extremely bitter in his heart.

Lost in his thoughts, Qing Shui only recovered after he saw the grandfather and grandson duo staring at him with a weird look in their eyes, before breaking into a forceful smile.

“Old man, are there a lot of Xiantian cultivators out there?”

Baili Jingwei only lightly smiled as he shook his head, resting his hands on the table before stating, “Qing Shui, this world is controlled by the various reclusive sects and great clans, whoever has the strength, would have the authority to speak. Do you understand?”

Qing Shui pondered over the words before suspiciously stating, “I still don’t understand!”

“Okay put it this way, the Hundred Miles City is a small city of the Cang Lang Country, and for certain things, the Hundred Miles City would still have to follow the arrangement of the Cang Lang Country, and would need to pay tax and all. Do you understand now? This is because the strength of the Cang Lang Country is so

much mightier than Hundred Miles City. You could say that the Cang Lang Country is the backer of Hundred Miles City!” Baili Jingwei glanced at Qing Shui as he slowly explained.

“You are saying that as long as one was strong enough, he could control a capital or even a country from the shadows?” Qing Shui asked with suspicion evident in his tone.

“En, you are intelligent indeed. Did you have some dealings with the Yan Clan in the past? If needed, I could help you, although I may not be able to help much, but for the little things, I would definitely be able to help.” Baili Jingwei smiled as he sincerely assured Qing Shui.

Qing Shui could sense that this Baili Jingwei was definitely someone with an extraordinary status. After all, despite knowing that the Yan Clan had sufficient strength to be the protector of the Yan Jiang country, he was still able to casually say such words.

“Thank you, if i really need your help, I would be sure to seek you out.”

Despite the casual way the old man spoke, Qing Shui could feel the sincerity in his eyes. However in this world there was no free lunch! Qing Shui did not believe that the old man would help him due to the pureness of his heart, it was just that he had not figured out what the motives of the old man were yet.

“Fine, if you need my help, just light up this “Cloudflame Cylinder”. As long as you are within the Cang Lang country, at the

very most, just in 3 days, there would be people arriving to help you. And I too would rush there.”

After thinking for a bit, Qing Shui accepted the cylinder. It was just that Qing Shui was still young and somewhat ignorant. If he knew that the thing he held in his hands were a lifesaving signal cylinder from the “Heavenly Sword Sect”, no one would be able to predict his reactions.

“Thanks, old man.”

“No need for thanks, I said that we were fated to meet here. The meaning of fate, is very simple. It simply means that we can make use of each other.” Baili Jingwei maintained his warm-looking smile on his face.

Qing Shui felt what the old man said was true, as his estimation of the old man involuntarily went up a few degrees, but the words which he said caused Qing Shui to ponder slightly.

“Old man, since you said that we were fated to meet, could there be anything I can help you with?” Qing Shui decided to go straight to the point.

Baili Jingwei slowly said, “help or not, it doesn’t matter to me, since I do not know if you would be able to mature during the years which I’m still alive. However I can feel that the current you could be compared to a carp which will transform to a dragon after leaping over a dragon gate[1]. I’m doing this only to sow some karma, and leave a path of retreat for my descendents. “

These words caused Qing Shui to be dumbstruck. Baili Jingwei was planning too far ahead in the future. What made Qing Shui dumbstruck, was not because Baili Jingwei could tell that he was extraordinary. It was the fact that for a mere “promise in the future”, he wouldn’t hesitate to help Qing Shui against the Yan Clan!

“Do you really feel that I would have extraordinary accomplishments in the future?” Qing Shui laughed.

“Just my intuition, but it’s usually accurate. Even though I’m old, the shine in my eyes has not gone dim yet.” Baili Jingwei laughed, emitting a feel of a sage.

“I’m afraid that I would disappoint you.” Qing Shui sighed as he spoke.

“No worries, helping others is a form of joy as well. I will just treat it like an investment.” The old man continued laughing, as his clear eyes looked at Qing Shui.

“If you are right, and I become someone that was capable of shaking the world in the future, I will never forget your help and kindness.”

AST: Chapter 80 – Kissing Yu He

The majority of the topics of conversation between Qing Shui and Baili Jingwei were started by Qing Shui, while Baili Jingwei answered him. In this short period of time, Qing Shui had broadened his knowledge, and came to understand many things, such as famous landmarks and the strong sects and family clans from the Cang Lang country. For example: the Heavenly Sword Sect, Incense Valley, Joyful Sect and Giant Sword Sect...

While this was occurring, Baili Wufeng, from the start till the finish, remained silent. Qing Shui could tell that the personality of Wufeng was extremely proud, and was a person of few words. He had no intention of provoking Wufeng.

Before the grandfather and grandson duo left, Wufeng turned back, and looked at Qing Shui as he stated, “I will be sure to look for you in the future.”

Qing Shui could only wryly smile as they left, and stored the Cloudflame Cylinder into his spatial realm before ascending the stairs.

Knock knock knock!

Qing Shui extended his hand and rapped on the door of Yu He, before pushing the door open and walking in. He discovered that Yu He was standing by the window, and as he walked to her side he noticed the posture of Yu He, and Qing Shui could not help but feel attracted to Yu He. That graceful figure of hers, unintentionally

emitted a feminine air, causing Qing Shui to be mesmerized.

Speaking of femininity, Qing Shui thought back to the explanations from his previous world. Femininity, can be just a gentle look, a graceful posture, or laughter sparkling in the eyes, a caring gesture, or even a bashful reaction. These actions would all emit the air of femininity!

Just as Qing Shui was reminiscing about memories from his previous world, Yu He suddenly spoke.

“Are you an acquaintance of that old man?” Yu He curiously asked.

“No, I did not know who he was before today. Is there a problem? Or does sister Yu know about Baili Jingwei?”

Everytime Qing Shui called out the words ‘sister Yu’, he felt as if a knife was stabbing right in his heart, as he sighed ruefully in his heart.

“Baili Jingwei? You said that old man’s name is Baili Jingwei?” The pupils of Yu He widened as she exclaimed in shock.

Qing Shui looked at her questioningly as suspicion filled his heart.

Looking at the bewildered expression on Qing Shui face, she knew that he was waiting for her explanation. Fluttering her

beautiful eyelashes, she replied “I’m not very sure as well, but I once heard that the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Sect from the Cang Lang country was named Baili Jingwei, but I don’t know if that person earlier was him.

Heavenly Sword Sect! Qing Shui gasped in surprise. Earlier, he had learned from Baili Jingwei that the authority behind the Cang Lang Country, was in the hands of the Heavenly Sword Sect, and not only that, the Heavenly Sword Sect was the biggest sect in all of the 81 cities which belonged to the Greencloud Continent!

Pausing to ruminate on the facts he just discovered, Qing Shui realized that what Yu He had said was probably true, and that old man earlier might have been the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Sect. Despite his damaged Dantian and energy channels, the pressure he emitted was countless times more domineering than that of Wenren Wu-Shuang. If his Dantian was not injured.....

“From the looks of the old man earlier, it seems highly possible. It matches the rumors that his looks are of a kindly old man, with foresight and intelligence. It is said that he has connections with many people of authority, and his ability in gauging the ability of others are extremely accurate.” Yu He replied thoughtfully.

The words of Yu He caused Qing Shui to think back the words Baili Jingwei said to him. Could it be that Qing Shui could really become a hegemon of this world? Qing Shui had no confidence, he couldn’t even break through to the 4th layer after 6 years, was Baili Jingwei mistaken?

“Sister Yu, how’s the strength of the Heavenly Sword Sect?”

Yu He did not know about matters such as these. She assumed a natural position as she reclined on the sofa, one of her legs gracefully resting on top of the other. The graceful movement of her legs added a slight essence of a maturity, and emitted an irresistible charm.

Looking at the dazed look in Qing Shui's eyes, Yu He slightly knit her brows. Qing Shui hurriedly shifted his gaze away, embarrassed. "I didn't have other intentions. It's just that you are too beautiful, and full of elegance, so I couldn't bear it anymore."

Yu He speechless, glanced at Qing Shui from the corner of her eyes. This little brat was full of weird ideas, but all his words were so sweet and pleasing to her ears. "What? What do you mean you couldn't bear it anymore?"

"It's like when you are eating the black fish, but you are only allowed to look, but not eat. It's that type of unbearable feeling." Qing Shui seriously explained.

"Why won't you allow me to eat." Qing Shui sheepishly added.

Yu He went red, as her eyes widened, "You still want to eat me? Go to hell!" Maybe it was because of Qing Shui taking advantage of her in the past, but the words of Qing Shui caused Yu He to lunge towards him in anger.

Qing Shui was dumbstruck, and unconsciously mirrored her movements. Qing Shui stepped forwards and hugged Yu He in his

embrace.

Although it was winter, the room was as warm as spring. Yu He was wearing an extremely flimsy robe, and when her body was pressed against Qing Shui, he could clearly feel the warmth emanating from her body. That feeling, caused his heartbeat to quicken as he was especially agitated.

Both of his hands were placed upon Yu He's slender waist, and his lips naturally sought out the lips of Yu He as he gently kissed them.

Yu He was thoroughly dumbfounded, and she unintentionally opened her mouth wider, gasping in surprise.

Qing Shui had no idea what he was doing, and continued kissing. Using his tongue to explore the lips and tongue of Yu He, while he strengthened his grip, and pressing Yu He closer and closer into his embrace.

“Wu Wu!”

An unknown amount of time passed, before the two of them broke apart!

“Cough cough!” Yu He was almost breathless.

“Are you trying to suffocate me to death!” Yu He's face was extremely red, and those rosy lips of hers were slightly swollen due

to the kissing earlier, and looked even sexier when compared to earlier. Unsated, Qing Shui leaned his mouth forward again...

“You brat, release me!” Yu He prettily pouted, in embarrassment.

Qing Shui nervously retracted his hands, which was still on the slender waist of Yu He... Just as Qing Shui released his hold, he could not help but think back on earlier, that exquisite and soft texture of her lips which were filled with fragrance. As he raised his head, he saw the complicated look in Yu He’s eyes.

What is happening to me? I keep allowing this little brat to take advantage of me, and he grows increasingly bolder. But what did the kiss earlier mean? Why did I not struggle? We can’t go on like this, things will only get worse. All these thoughts rapidly flashed through her mind as Yu He panicked.

“I’m sorry, I like you, I really like you a lot!”

AST: Chapter 81 – Sorrow

“I’m sorry, I like you. I really like you a lot!”

Qing Shui’s words were blurted out without any semblance of conscious thought, and were wrapped in truth and sincerity.

Yu He bowed her head, not saying anything.

“I know that this should be the time where I apologize to you, but I still have to tell you this. I truly like you very much. I like your looks, I like your personality, I like your wits. I don’t wish to find any excuses. I admit that I’m full of lust, a horny guy, and would lose myself whenever I see beautiful babes. Still, I only feel a tugging sensation in my heart whenever I look at you. If you fell in love with some other guy, the pain I would feel, would be unbearable. I don’t know what else to say.” Qing Shui explained somewhat self-mockingly and in a distressed manner.

Yu He went slack-jawed as she look at Qing Shui. Although she knew there were many types of people in this world of the nine continents, this was the first time she had heard somebody outright calling themselves horny. Not only that, this guy admitted to a woman that he loved that his heart would be moved when looking upon other beautiful women. Is he crazy or sincere?

Is he an idiot, or he is truly sincere, or is it that he is extremely confident?

However, these were no longer important, what was important

was that in her heart this guy had already left behind an indelible mark. Yu He, regarding this situation, was totally at a complete loss.

Looking at the troubled expression of Yu He, after a slight hesitation, Qing Shui reached forward to straighten her crumpled clothes. A gentle look appeared in his eyes, causing Yu He's heart to quicken again. Why are his eyes so clear?

“Qing Shui, Elder sister thanks you for your feelings. You like me, and I'm very happy to hear that, but what you don't know is that elder sister is a widow... In this life, I can never be together with another man again.” Yu He forced out a smile as she gently caressed Qing Shui's face.

Widow. Qing Shui was not extremely shocked by this news, seeing that Yu He was almost near 30, with such a elegant and graceful figure, how could she still have been single? However, he was still slightly surprised by the revelation.

The customs of the world of the nine continents, even though there can't be said to be absolute equality between the opposite sex, in this cultivation-oriented world, there are still some females who were the matriarchs/sect leaders of their respective groups.

However there were some people whose status were slightly awkward – and those were widows. Widows in the world of the nine continents are considered to be an unlucky existence, the younger a widow was, the more of a jinx she is. No matter how ravishing, nor how charming, most men would still be unable to accept this.

If a widow wanted to marry again, then they would have to seek the approval of her ex-husband's family. This was an iron-clad custom that was set ages ago. However, over the passage of time, this rule was slightly tweaked. It slowly became the sole right of rich families. This meant that once a lady was married to a family of status and power, even if the groom were to die, the woman was not allowed to remarry. Even if the lady and the man were not truly married, and only had the status of engaged, if the guy died, the women would still not be allowed to be remarried. The woman would then enter the family of the male counterpart as a toy, suffering a fate worse than death.

Of course, if the female's family had equal amount of power and authority, there would be no other restrictions.

Looking at that tear-stained face of Yu He, and that sexy neckline and cleavage, Qing Shui wondered. Who was the lucky yet unlucky guy who was her ex-husband?

"I don't mind the fact that you are a widow. I just want to protect you, and I would like you to hang out with me more often. Interacting with you, seeing your smile, hearing your voice, and every time you blush, my heart trembles. I don't think I can live without you!" Qing Shui held on to the hands of Yu He, who was still caressing his face.

Yu He did not struggle, hearing Qing Shui's confession, the elegant face of Yu He, stared at Qing Shui with a complicated look in her eyes.

Bitterly shaking her head, “Qing Shui, you are still young... After a few more years, you will forget this feeling you have for elder sister. You should concentrate on your career and cultivation right now. I am but a flower that’s about to lose it’s bloom, and not only that, but those people would never allow me to remarry again.”

Qing Shui furrowed his brows, although he knew of the customs, this was the first time he had come face to face with it. It could be considered that he was in a sticky situation, because Qing Shui really wanted Yu He to be his.

Initially, Qing Shui determined that before he stepped into the Yan Clan, he would not have any relationships. However, after meeting Wenren Wu-Shuang and Baili Jingwei, he slightly changed his way of thinking. Qing Shui from his previous world, knew of the power of influence. It was the same for this world of the nine continents as well. Although Qing Shui did not wish to depend on external factors to eradicate his enemies, he also did not want to suppress his own feelings. If one day, his strength reached the peak, then he would set his own rules, and create his own customs.

“What strength do I have to attain to deal with those people? Qing Shui gently cupped his hands around the delicate face of Yu He as he asked.

With an even more complicated look upon her face, she shook her head as she gazed at Qing Shui. “Don’t waste your strength, or your life. Elder sister appreciates your thoughts, it’s just that they don’t wish for elder sister to remarry, and.....”

Yu He stuttered unnaturally as she struggled to complete her sentence.

“And what? Could it be that they still want something more from you?” Qing Shui felt the rage from his anger building up, as his tone got increasingly louder.

“No... They don’t allow me to openly date another man.” Yu He said softly, while looking away.

“What?” Qing Shui was dumbstruck. Unable to openly date a man meant that she could secretly date one? Qing Shui was extremely curious about this particular family.

Yu He shyly kept her head bow, as she surreptitiously glanced at Qing Shui to note his reaction.

“But you are still so young, how could they condemn you to a life of loneliness.”

Yu He fell silent, as the color in her cheeks reddened, before saying, “You must be at least a Xiantian cultivator before the other party would be willing to relinquish their hold on me. Because only if you are a Xiantian, they would not feel there’s something shameful about that.”

Xiantian, at least a Xiantian. Qing Shui hated that he was so weak now, a natural moat that had restricted countless others from stepping into Xiantian. Would he be able to surpass the barrier?

Who knows how long it would take! Marrying Yu He was going to be as tough as ascending the heavens.

AST: Chapter 82 – Golden Extract Essence

“Elder sis, give me some time, and I will definitely marry you.” Qing Shui rubbed his nose, as he put on a dependable atmosphere.

“When did I agree to marry you!” Yu He protested in a coquettish tantrum.

Following her protest, Yu He solemnly added, “Cultivate hard. Don’t just indulge in flights of fancy. Elder sister no longer wants to find a man, and has no intentions to marry. In the future, when you have some accomplishments and capabilities, there will be plenty of good women waiting for you. At that point, in your eyes, I will just be a nothing.”

Yu He’s gaze drifted outside the window, looking far off into the horizon. That lonely and helpless back view of hers caused Qing Shui to feel as if a needle had been stabbed right into his heart. But what could he do? With his meager strength, he had no rights to speak of protecting her at all.

Power, everything had to do with power. It’s fine even if Yu He doesn’t love him, but as long as he has sufficient power, then he would be able to do something that would make her happier.

Qing Shui knew that everything he had said just now were just lies. Without power, anyone could promise anything. Moreover, to let such a mature woman like Yu He to fall in love with him now, even Qing Shui couldn’t believe it. Maybe she felt that he wasn’t strong enough, wasn’t mature enough, or was undependable. It’s

very tough to fall in love with a man lacking in so many qualities.

There was no hatred without reason, and there certainly wouldn't be love without reason. The majority of women in this era loved powerful men, which was just following the logic in his previous world where the majority of women who loved men with riches.

Although that last sentence by Yu He, almost caused Qing Shui to eat Yu He, right here and now.

“In the future, if I were to sneakily fall in love with a man, I would choose you. After all your skin is as smooth as jade, even causing women to feel jealous. Also, your looks are pretty good too, and more over, we are still familiar with each other. It's just that your kissing skills are still too

Qing Shui was extremely speechless, after all that was his first kiss. How could he be good at something he had never practiced before.

Qing Shui left, he wasn't one who would coax and weedle the other party to get what he wanted, and in any case, he had to admit that the body of Yu He was something that was very appealing to him. Although his feelings for Yu He had not reached the realm of love, but at the very least, he knew that his liking for Yu He, had reached a very high level.

Love was build on the basis of liking something, if there wasn't even any liking at the start, how could there be love? Even if one were to turn hatred into love, during that span of time there would

still have to be a period of liking first!

It was already noon when he arrived back at the Qing Clan medical store. Seeing the knowing look in Qing Yi's eyes caused Qing Shui to laugh embarrassedly.

“Our Qing Shui has grown up!” After which Qing Yi gently let out a breath, “However, there are some women that are better left untouched. Although they might be pretty, their inner-selves might really be like poisonous spiders and scorpions. You are still young, and your heart wavers easily, so do not let beauty fool your eyes.” Qing Yi pulled Qing Shui's hands as she calmly explained.

Qing Shui knew clearly what Qing Yi meant, she was worried that he would lose himself in the process of getting obsessed with beauty, and was worried for him. If his weakness was lust, he would be easily controlled by any beautiful scheming woman, and would end up with scars in his heart, or worse, enter into a rampage, turning into a shadow of his former self.

“Mother, don't worry, your son is an intelligent man!” Qing Shui displayed a re-assuring smile.

“Qing Shui, how much do you understand about Yu He? Mother is not trying to interfere in your affairs. If you have the capabilities, no matter who you like, no one would dare to say that she's a bad woman who brings ill-fate to her husband? As long as you love her, and she's sincere towards you, mother would definitely support you. I just hope that you wouldn't be burdened by beautiful women even before you are fully grown up.” Qing Yi reminded warmly.

Looking at Qing Yi, Qing Shui could only sigh. She had placed all her hope into the body of her son – him. Since his childhood, Qing Shui had no father, and he would never acknowledge that man as his father. No matter how helpless he was, he still indirectly caused Yu He to suffer immensely and undergo so much pressure.

In the afternoon, Qing Shui went to the Night Fragrance Court and practiced his swordplay with Wenren Wu-Shuang. His skill with the sword had sharpened during all the sparring sessions he had with Wenren Wu-Shuang. Even if her sword skills were unable to match him, she was after all a Xiantian Cultivator. Qing Shui understood the essence of the “piercing” stance of the sword. The essence was simply the word “pierce”. As long as he could concentrate all of his power onto a single point, then he could magnify the strength by a few times, maybe even over 10 times!

Just like now, when he unintentionally focused his strength onto the tip of his wooden sword, when it came into contact with the wooden sword of Wenren Wu-Shuang, he accidentally caused the sword used by her to splinter into two.

This incident caused both Qing Shui and Wenren Wu-Shuang to be dumbstruck. Qing Shui was dumbstruck because from this, because he discovered the effect and the method to properly distribute his strength, while Wenren Wu-Shuang was shocked because, other than the Iaido Technique, Qing Shui still had an additional technique. What’s more, is that this technique was also at the “realm of sword truths”.

It was also only now that Qing Shui fully understood the essence

behind that move. If he was at Xiantian level, and imbued his weapon with Xiantian Qi, there would absolutely be no question that he could pierce through armor as easily as a hot knife through butter.

During the night, Qing Shui entered into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Just as he was about to begin his cultivation, he suddenly saw that hard black stone which he had bought from the old man earlier, and also the branch that was planted inside the earth. There were water droplets on the surface of that slick black-colored branch, but it still showed no signs that it was going to germinate anytime soon.

Walking a few steps forward and approaching the black stone, Qing Shui grabbed the black stone that was said to be unrefinable even by normal blacksmiths, when suddenly a thought appeared in his mind. Don't I have the primordial flame technique now?

Making his decision, Qing Shui decided to use his flame techniques on it, to see what exactly this black-looking stone was.

Activating the Qi from the 48 cycles of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and utilizing the Ancient Yin-Yang Flames technique, a grey-colored primordial flame spark appeared in his palm causing the black-colored stone to be enveloped by the flames caused by the primordial spark.

Slowly, Qing Shui discovered that a portion of the stone actually melted, causing him to be incomparably excited.

“Indeed, my guess was right, and the Ancient Yin-Yang flame can melt everything!

He allowed the refinement process to go on until all the Qi in his body was used up. Sitting down crossed-legged, he rested while recovering back to his optimal state, before he activated the primordial flames again.

As the refinement process continued, finally, after part of the black-colored layer of the stone was melted away, there was a glint of yellowish within the black. Now, the color of the stone was a dull blackish yellow, causing Qing Shui to scratch his head in puzzlement. What the hell was this? He initially thought that it was iron-essence, but the presence of the color yellow meant that it was impossible for the black-colored stone to be iron essence!

“Bronze Essence Extract?” Qing Shui was somewhat bewildered, as he continue the refinement process.

Qing Shui spent his time wisely, and other than refining the stone, he would also spend time in cultivation, and practicing his other techniques – Solitary Rapid Fist as well as the Ghostly Steps.

After three days in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui discovered that the stone had changed color again. It went from a dull blackish yellow, to a somewhat purplish yellow!

After another three days had passed, the purplish yellow color started to transform into a golden yellow.

Now, after the golden yellow color appeared, Qing Shui could safely deduced that it was not Bronze Essence Extract.

However, what could this be? Could this be Gold Essence Extract? After all, only gold would have this sort of color.

Gold Essence Extract was the purest form of gold. Looking at the peach-size Gold Essence Extract, Qing Shui knew that in order to refine such an amount of Gold Extract, one would need at least a 100 tonnes of gold to be able to do so.

Qing Shui was thunderstruck!

Looking the priceless Gold Essence Extract, Qing Shui went slack-jawed. If a iron essence needed a 100 tonnes of iron before it could be refined, the price of the iron essence would undoubtedly be many times more than the price of the 100 tonnes of iron. This was the same for Gold Essence Extract, with just a rough estimation, he gauged that the peach-sized extract in his hands was worth at least 2 million taels of gold.

AST: Chapter 83 – Firecloud Blacksmith Store

This little glob of Golden Essence Extract was actually worth 2 million taels of gold. The feeling of striking nouveau riche all of a sudden, caused Qing Shui to temporarily be unable to accept this.

Golden Essence Extract, besides needing a huge volume of gold to refine, it could also appear naturally in the deepest level of a gold mine. However the amount that occur naturally was so miniscule that it was insubstantial.

Golden Essence Extract was the purest form of gold, and had additional effects such as absorbing poison or even driving away demons. Not only that, but using the golden extract for the forging of weapon, or merely coating a layer of golden essence extract on the weapon's surface would cause the weapon to become incomparably sharp, and even elevate it a few grades. After all, of all the five elements, metal (gold) was the sharpest.

Looking at the Golden Essence Extract in his hands, Qing Shui gauged that it weighed about 1 jin as he mumbled, "What can this be used for? Forget forging weapons, I don't even know if it's sufficient to coat a weapon!"

Actually, Qing Shui had been mistaken. In reality that amount of Golden Essence Extract was sufficient for him to forge at least three pieces of weapons or armor, and he would still have enough remaining to refine and elevate the grades of the crafted equipments.

Any one of the crafted equipment, would be considered priceless treasures. If he used the Golden Essence Extract to craft a full set of battle armor, it would definitely cause an uproar in the world of the nine continents. Not many were capable of such extravagance.

“En, there’s no need to think about crafting or coating weapons. I don’t even have any weapons, so what else can I do with it?” Qing Shui pondered as he looked towards the Golden Essence Extract in his hands.

“I’ve got it! Golden Needle! Golden Essence Needle!” Qing Shui happily called out.

Qing Shui smiled, finally, he knew what he needed – golden acupuncture needles! In his sea of consciousness, he could see records of seven golden needles which were as fine as hair, yet tougher than steel! It seemed that he could finally create them now.

If he refined the golden essence further and created needles manufactured from pure golden essence extract... Qing Shui grinned, even if the weapons created were smaller and thinner than the majority of weapons, it would still be considered an extremely priceless treasure.

Qing Shui had never intended to exchange the Golden Essence Extract for money. He knew that once the golden needles were crafted, it’s usefulness and worth would far exceed that of money.

After coming to a decision, and deciding to craft the divine

golden needles, Qing Shui was immensely pleased. Of course from his experiences in two worlds, he knew that wealth with no power would only lead to disaster. That was partly why he didn't want to exchange the Golden Essence Extract for direct wealth. After all, wouldn't it be better if he had something that would aid him in treatment, which could cause strong powers like Baili Jingwei to owe him a debt of favor instead?

Suddenly, a frown appeared on Qing Shui face. How is he going to craft the divine golden needles that existed in his sea of consciousness? There wouldn't be molds or casts fine enough for the hair-thin divine golden needles in his consciousness.

Forget it, and just ignore it. For now he will just continue refining. Activating the primordial flame to his utmost limits, Qing Shui grit his teeth and set about doing it. Although the primordial flame was able to burn and refine all things in existence, based on Qing Shui's current strength, there were still things that he would be unable to completely refine. However, the refinement of the Golden Essence Extract was still something that he was barely able to do.

Gradually, the Golden Essence Extract in Qing Shui's palms transformed into a liquid state with no signs of impurities, which shone with a golden yellow, as resplendent light radiated out from it.

Qing Shui slowly extinguished the primordial flame. He intended to look for a blacksmith store tomorrow to find a mold that was similar to the divine golden needles in his sea of consciousness. That way, he would then be able to craft the golden needles.

Unknowingly, he had already spent 10 over days within the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, and during the refinement process, he had gained even more enlightenment from the usage of the primordial flame. This could be considered killing two birds with one stone – refining the golden essence while improving his Ancient Yin-Yang Flames technique.

After which, Qing Shui began practicing his piercing sword techniques while paying attention to the control of his strength, as he gathered his Qi onto the tip of his sword. Practicing it to the utmost limit would even enable him to reach a realm of using an egg to smash a rock!

During the time when Qing Shui crossed swords with Wenren Wu-Shuang, it seemed as though he had understood something, but that feeling was extremely illusive, seemingly there but not there, and caused him to be unable to fully comprehend the insights gained.

Practice after practice, contemplation, trying to find that exact feeling he had when he splintered Wenren Wu-Shuang sword.

Angle of attack, the right amount of strength, the flick of the wrist, Qing Shui finally understood. It was only through a myriad of factors combined before he could unleash such a strike!

Eventually, after countless amounts of practice, Qing Shui could finally approximate a feeling close to that strike he used against Wenren Wu-Shuang. Although it started out clumsy, that feeling

was getting stronger and stronger.

Qing Shui knew that, practicing alone wouldn't be able to benefit him as much as directly sparring. The time it took, and insights gained during solo practice could never be compared to having someone that could react to your attacks.

Soon after, Qing Shui was ejected by the spatial realm. The tired Qing Shui fell asleep straight after his head landed on the bed

The second morning, after breakfast, Qing Shui hit the streets, with the intentions of looking for a blacksmith store.

“Is there any blacksmith store nearby?” Qing Shui asked Qing Yi, before he left the house as he did not want to waste time getting lost!

“Blacksmith store? There are plenty of stores selling weapons, but the most famous one would undoubtedly be the Bai Clan's Firecloud Blacksmith store. They have over a 100 years of history”, Qing Yi explained.

Soon after, Qing Shui rented a horse carriage, just like how he would flag a taxi down back in his previous world, and told the driver what he was looking for.

Very quickly, Qing Shui saw the big red-colored signboard of the Firecloud Blacksmith Store. Above the signboard, there was also the carving of a strong man wielding a hammer, while below the

sign board there were also carvings of various completed weapons.

After paying money for the transport, Qing Shui walked towards the entrance of the store. The store's black gate were wide open as streams of customer flowed in and out of the store.

“Wow, business seems to be booming.” Qing Shui mumbled with a smile as he entered into the Firecloud Blacksmith Store.

Upon entering, only one word was sufficient to describe his feelings – spacious!

The spacious main hall had a plethora of weapons ready for sale. There were rows of weapons such as sabers, spears, swords, halberds, hatchets, battle-axes, hooks, tridents, whips, truncheons, hammers, claws, rods, lances, cudgels, throwing stars, bows, crossbows, pikes and shields.....!

Qing Shui could feel that the temperature within was much higher as compared to the temperature outside. In anycase, it was better to be warm instead of cold, as it was still the winter season.

Looking at the sea of customers checking out the weapons, “They wouldn't all gather here just for keeping warm right.”

Qing Shui pondered in his heart.

“Hi Sir, may I help you with anything?” A lovely voice rang out, causing Qing Shui to turn his head!

AST: Chapter 84 – The Seven-inch Gold Needle

“Hello, how can I help you?” Qing Shui heard a beautiful and melodic voice.

Surprised, he lifted his head. In his sight stood the young woman who had let out that angelic voice, but when he found the owner of that voice, he felt a strange sensation. The woman was not exactly stunning, as she looked more ordinary and plain. However, her slender and graceful figure added to her beauty.

She was about twenty with pale skin and had a pair of narrow, fox-like eyes. Although her features by themselves were nothing out of the ordinary, they gave off an erotic feeling when placed together on her thin oval face.

Her breasts were full but not oversized, with her two mounds pushing up into her clothes it would give any man the urge to reach out and grab them. Her butt appeared even more plump compared to her thin waist, and her full yet slender legs also added to her feminine appeal.

Altogether, she was more alluring than beautiful.

“Hello, I wanted to see if you have a mold that can create an instrument that’s as thin as a strand of hair.” In reality, Qing Shui had only spent a short amount of time to check out the woman.

“Oh, yes, you have found the right shop. On this street, there are no more than three blacksmith stores, but this shop is the only one that can meet your needs. I hope that we have what you are looking for. Please come with me.” The woman chuckled as she replied.

Qing Shui looked at this chuckling woman and felt her enchanting charisma. Her sexiness was in her casual attitude. Although her appearance was only mediocre, her hands, neck, shoulder, and even the distance from her neck to her collarbone to the curves of her chest and her buttock were beautiful and refined.

One could stare at her for hours on end and not get tired, and her memorable figure would be branded into one’s mind.

Qing Shui smiled as he followed behind the woman and walked towards the inner room, which was normal since he was looking for a mold and not a finished weapon.

They crossed a grey iron door, and entered one of many rooms on the north side of the shop. The room was not too big, about five meters deep, three meters wide, and five meters tall.

“Here are some of the smaller molds and containers that we have created. Oh, and over there are the needle molds that you were looking for.” The woman pointed at tens of black unidentifiable objects that were sitting in an inconspicuous corner, which were as thick as an arm, and had many small holes in them.

“Can these objects withstand high temperatures?” Qing Shui

asked doubtfully while holding a mold that fit his demands. He was worried that the mold wouldn't be able to withstand the high temperature of the Golden Essence Extract.

The woman laughed at Qing Shui's question, which baffled Qing Shui. However, at the same time, he felt that the woman's chuckling expression was truly beautiful. Though her appearance was not astounding, there was a dull beauty about her. Though her face was not exquisite, it possessed the grace of any other beauty. Combined with that refined and sexy body, she gave off a strongly seductive charm.

"Molds are basically all the same, as long as their specifications are suitable. Don't worry about its ability to withstand high temperatures. If you can find a way to melt fine iron, cold iron or darksteel, then this mold will help you shape the instrument. The material for molds are special, and all molds are disposable, so you don't have to worry about this problem."

The woman's voice which was filled with a light laughter seemed like music to Qing Shui's ears. Her voice was especially melodic with an addicting quality. What made her voice even more beautiful were the words that helped soothe Qing Shui's doubts.

"Oh, so that's how it is! I'm just an amateur, so I don't know much about it. Thank you for your advice. How much is this?" Qing Shui picked up a mold that fulfilled his requirements and asked.

"Haha, twelve taels of silver!" The woman said with a laugh.

Qing Shui was not sure whether it was expensive or not, but he since he had thousands of silver taels, he happily paid for it and walked out of the store. The woman walked him out with a smile.

“Do you manage this Firecloud Blacksmith Store?” Qing Shui saw several other people in the store, but they were obviously newly hired because of their lack of grace compared to the woman.

“Haha, my family has run this blacksmith store for so many generations that it is considered a landmark in the city. I’m just here to help out my father for today.” Her buttery voice had an almost supernatural quality.

“Your voice sounds really nice!” Qing Shui complimented her while rubbing his nose and looking at the woman seriously.

Qing Shui knew from his past life that women loved to be praised, and that they liked to receive compliments from men. When men had figured out this detail, they would give out compliments like there was no tomorrow. Many women had fallen for these sweet nothings, which were dug up by men like how pigs dig up tubers.

In his past life, Qing Shui did not want to stoop to that level because he felt that that was fake. However, after thinking about it, it did not seem that bad after all.

The noble will always be noble, and the dishonorable will always be dishonorable. Life in the world of the living was just about

making the most out of it. Why did we care so much about the means of getting there? In the end, the winner takes everything, and the one who can laugh in the end is the happiest!

The woman became a little startled after hearing Qing Shui's words. However, she quickly changed her expression and started smiling like a flower. "Thank you for your kind words, I like your compliment."

Qing Shui left with a smile. He didn't asked for the woman's name because he knew the chances of meeting her again were miniscule. He didn't wanted to leave her feeling melancholic and add more trouble to himself.

When he walked to a place without any other people, Qing Shui directly entered the Violet Realm, and put the mold for the golden needles down in front of him. Qing Shui observed the tiny holes for the needles. The distance between each of the holes was a little apart, but the needle holes were not transparent. They only stuck out a little on the other side of the mold. Qing Shui knew that was the tip of the needle. The mold felt a little cool, and the material unknown.

Qing Shui, activated the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and slowly circulated his Qi to the 48th cycle, after which he activated the Yin-Yang Flame Technique in order to refine the Golden Essence in his hands. Qing Shui could already control the primordial flame to a large degree.

When he had finally melted the Golden Essence Extract in his palms into a tiny liquid ball, he didn't stop. He kept applying heat

until the liquid ball of gold reached a density so high that the liquid was giving off an enormous amount of heat.

Qing Shui then carefully filled the holes drop by drop. He saw the hot Golden Essence Extract liquid slowly fill each needle hole, which slipped in easily because of the inclined edges.

Qing Shui knew that approximately one drop could fill one needle hole. Although these needles were thin, they were dense, and each of these thin needles weighed about one or two taels.

Qing Shui kept activating his primordial flames, and carefully filled each little needle hole with a drop of the liquid Golden Essence Extract.

Nine. Qing Shui checked and saw that he had filled exactly nine needle holes.

After a while, the needles had completely cooled down. Qing Shui slowly shattered the mold, and nine shining seven-inch golden needles appeared in front of Qing Shui. They were only a little bit thicker than a strand of hair, but they were solid and sharp. Unlike silver needles, these golden needles were more dense and heavy. Qing Shui tested these golden needles, and they easily pierced a silver-coated wooden sword.

Weapons made with Golden Essence Extract must be really powerful!

AST: Chapter 85 – Shi Qing Zhuang

Qing Shui had always wanted a weapon made with Golden Essence Extract because of the high density of the Golden Essence Extract; even a weapon like a regular three-inch Indigo Sword made with the Extract would weigh about a hundred Jin. His own physical strength, the weapon's sharpness, his own speed and his Truth Realm sword skills could help improve his strength.

However, he could only fantasize about it. It's a fact that he would not be able to achieve that yet. The truth is that not many people would be willing to spend for the luxury of having Golden Essence Extract weapons, armors, and the like, especially when in other situations there were many other alternatives. For example, there were other materials that cost much less than Golden Essence Extract, despite the fact that the results were almost the same.

Qing Shui collected his golden needles, and left the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Outside of the realm, not much time had passed. He pat off the purple dust from the ground of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, and slowly headed towards the Qing Clan Medical Store.

The plain but feminine face of the woman Qing Shui met at the Firecloud Blacksmith Store kept reappearing in his mind. Qing Shui shook his head as if to clear his mind of the image.

Suddenly, Qing Shui heard the sound of hooves. Qing Shui curiously looked at who was riding the horse. When he saw it, his eyes lit up because that horse was Shi Qing Zhuang's Emberlion

steed.

Because he had not seen Shi Qing Zhuang in a long time, Qing Shui could not help but keep staring at the steed. He saw Shi Qing Zhuang, wearing her fiery-red corset, and was lying face down on the steed while her face was flushed with anxiety, and filled with giddiness. She was so ill at ease on the steed that it seemed like she could fall down at any moment.

“Something doesn’t feel right!” Qing Shui muttered to himself. Activating his Heavenly Vision Technique, he couldn’t help but examine Shi Qing Zhuang.

“Hmm, her blood flow is quickening, and her breathing is irregular. There is also some sort of gas that is obstructing her nervous system and her consciousness in her brain...” Qing Shui’s brain quickly analyzed Shi Qing Zhuang’s condition.

Suddenly Emberlion steed was next to Qing Shui. At this moment, he heard the sound of a wave of hooves coming from behind him. Qing Shui knew that Shi Qing Zhuang was drugged because at this moment Qing Shui could see Shi Qing Zhuang’s eyes glaze over as she slowly lost her consciousness.

Shi Qing Zhuang looked as if she saw Qing Shui inadvertently. Her mist-like eyes sparkled. Suddenly, she held out her hand to hold onto Qing Shui. “Come on up, help me escape the people who are chasing me.”

Qing Shui originally wanted to protest, but when he heard the

second half of her sentence, he quickly mounted the steed behind Shi Qing Zhuang. Because he only took a moment to mount, the Emberlion steed did not even need to slow down.

Although there were two people riding on the Emberlion steed, its speed was still the same as if there were only one person on its back. It rapidly galloped at an immense speed. No wonder it was considered the best of the best; in Qing Shui's eyes, the tall and strong Emberlion steed could be compared to the lions and tigers of the past.

Although the Emberlion steed was not riding roughly, Qing Shui and Shi Qing Zhuang felt uncomfortable. Since Qing Shui was not a good equestrian, he could only hold on tightly to Shi Qing Zhuang's thin waist. The feeling of her softness and heartbeat at that moment put Qing Shui into a daze.

What followed seemed to put Qing Shui in an even bigger daze. Although Qing Shui was holding on to Shi Qing Zhuang's waist, instead of scolding Qing Shui, she put her weight entirely in Qing Shui's embrace, turning Qing Shui's mind into mush.

Qing Shui hugged the beautiful body that he had been dreaming about, feeling her fiery body's finesse and softness. However, when he saw her clouded eyes, Qing Shui felt as if a bucket of ice water had been dumped onto him.

Qing Shui could now be sure that Shi Qing Zhuang had been drugged with an aphrodisiac, and an especially strong one at that. He just didn't know how someone as cautious as Shi Qing Zhuang could have fallen into this kind of trap. Qing Shui hugged Shi Qing

Zhuang's body, feeling unease in his heart. Should he take advantage of her, give her medical attention, or do something else?

“How can I save her?” Qing Shui was confused. Right now he could rightly hug and kiss her, or even fuck her, but he felt like rejecting it...

“Hmm, the pursuers caught up?” Qing Shui heard the sounds behind him growing increasingly louder as he glanced back.

“Fuck!” Qing Shui couldn't help but cuss out. He quickly whipped the horse to speed up because Situ Bu Fan and several others were riding on a huge Wind Flame Leopard, and were closing on them.

This Wind Flame Leopard's body was a combination of red and white. The front half of its body was flame-red, and the rear end was snow-white. It was five meters long, and two meters tall. Although its body was muscular, it was extremely agile. Though its grade was only at the ferocious beast level, its speed and strength were pretty good. Its only flaw was that its stamina was more suited for short bursts of speed rather than long distance running.

Qing Shui looked at the unconscious Shi Qing Zhuang in his arms. How she looked now was the opposite of her usual ice princess attitude, but that made her even more attractive.

Now Shi Qing Zhuang's hands were starting to touch random parts of Qing Shui's body. Qing Shui could only use one hand to hug her willowy waist, and the other hand to grab onto Emberlion

steed's head, transfusing energy from the Ancient Strengthening Technique into its body.

Qing Shui knew that he just needed to last a little longer. They would outrun the Wind Flame Leopard which was carrying many people on its back, as it would soon run out of stamina.

Qing Shui pressed himself against Shi Qing Zhuang's back. Since Shi Qing Zhuang was slumped over on the steed, Qing Shui's entire body was on Shi Qing Zhuang's back. His reaction was so strong that he felt that his desire was about to burst. His rock hard thing was pushing between Shi Qing Zhuang's round and plump peach buttocks, and the grinding caused by the rocking of the steed brought waves of ecstasy.

Emberlion steed, with the stimulation of Qing Shui's energy from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, sped up as if he was on steroids and quickly escaped the pursuers. Qing Shui could even hear the relentless bawling and curses from them.

Qing Shui did not feel any sense of goodwill towards this scum of society... Presumptuous, arrogant, defiant, showy, and even willing to stoop to this kind of method to obtain his fiancée, he was nothing but a beast.

The Emberlion steed, carrying Qing Shui and Shi Qing Zhuang, crossed several wide avenues and headed out of the city.

Suddenly, Qing Shui sucked in a gust of cold air, "Oh my goodness!"

Shi Qing Zhuang's hands unknowingly grabbed onto Qing Shui's penis, almost leading to an accidental discharge.

"You took my first grab away! I must return it double!" Qing Shui's hand that was on Shi Qing Zhuang's waist directly grabbed her breasts.

"Wow!" Qing Shui moaned in satisfaction. So that's that how it feels, full, soft, smooth, and bouncy. That feeling was very comfortable, an inexplicable feeling of contentment, that made his heart race and his mind go blank.

Maybe it was because Qing Shui was touching her breasts, maybe it was because of her instincts. Shi Qing Zhuang's eyes had suddenly become clear again, and her pink face had a seductive expression as a result of the drug.

Qing Shui knew that he could only see this ice princess's expression under this circumstance, but witnessing Shi Qing Zhuang's moment of clarity scared Qing Shui witless.

"You took advantage of me so much, but I only took advantage of you a little," Qing Shui muttered, and then squeezed a few times, unwilling to remove his hand. The feeling of her breasts made it impossible to stop.

Shi Qing Zhuang's breathing suddenly quickened into a melodic moan, then she flipped herself and wrapped her arms around Qing Shui's neck. She started to nibble Qing Shui's lips, leaving wet

stains all over Qing Shui's face.

“Should I eat her or not?”

AST: Chapter 86 – Detoxifying Poison

“Should I eat her or not?”

Complications arose in his heart as Qing Shui gazed at Shi Qingzhuang, who had abandoned all restraint after getting poisoned with an aphrodisiac. Although he had a way to cure her, that method was too beastly.

His own medical skills may be sufficient to detoxify the poison within Shi Qingzhuang, but if he really did that, then he wouldn't be any different from a beast. Despite this, Qing Shui really wanted to be a beast for once.

The dark side of his heart surfaced, or more accurately, the selfish side of his heart, as a thought appeared in Qing Shui's mind. Not taking advantage when it's right in front of you, are you stupid or an idiot!

The thought of lust got increasingly stronger!

He tightly embraced Shi Qingzhuang, as the horse galloped towards the exit they managed to swiftly exit the city. As the guard manning the city entrance saw the horse of Shi Qingzhuang, he didn't dare to bar the way. Not only that, Shi Qingzhuang was tightly embracing a man atop the horse. He was so shy that he didn't dare to incline his head. It seemed like she was on extremely close terms with the guy riding the horse.

After exiting the city, Qing Shui allowed the Emberlion steed to

run free. After they left the city, his hands had not been idle, as he constantly caressed the beautiful contours and outline of Shi Qingzhuang's body.

“Fuck, the weather is so cold. I should find a good place to fuck her, so as to detoxify the poison. Or should we just engage in public sex out in the wilds? I'm not afraid of the cold, but I'm afraid her tender skin might get damaged.” Qing Shui contemplated his surroundings as he cursed in a low voice.

“Let me go!” a hoarse voice sounded out.

Qing Shui got a shock as he heard the voice, and lowered his head only to see Shi Qingzhuang. Her face was enraptured in ecstasy. She shook her head furiously, trying to regain her senses, as blood seeped out of the corners of her mouth.

She bit her tongue to regain her clarity. Qing Shui couldn't help but feel an unknown sense of pain in his heart. He stopped the steed, as he gently carried Shi Qingzhuang before dismounting, still holding her tightly in his embrace.

All intentions of sex with Shi Qingzhuang disappeared from his head. In Qing Shui's heart, other than feeling a slight bit of depression, a hint of admiration also arose because of her unbending determination!

“You were poisoned by Situ Bufan.” Qing Shui had to remind her. He knew that Shi Qingzhuang had understood too. Earlier she had been kissing Qing Shui madly, and even grabbing and

caressing his manhood with no intention of stopping.

Qing Shui regretted that he did not take the time to properly enjoy the taste of Shi Qingzhuang's dainty little mouth. He should have taken the initiative to kiss her more, tasting her tongue and lips, but there wasn't any opportunity to do that while on the horse.

"I know!" A look of extreme pain and helplessness flashed in her eyes, as she struggled to maintain her clear-headedness. However, desire gradually suffused that tender looking face, as her eyes started misting over.

Just as Qing Shui wanted to explain some other methods that he had at his disposal that might help cure her, Shi Qingzhuang who was cradled in his arms, whispered in his ears. "Mount the horse, about 10 li from here there is a small manor I own. My horse knows the way, quickly...I... can't... control it anymore..."

Qing Shui's thingy almost exploded out of his pants upon hearing those words. The gentle voice which was filled with hints of desire was so comfortable to hear. So many twists and turns, "My spring days are finally coming soon!" Qing Shui hurriedly carried Shi Qingzhuang as he excitedly mounted the horse.

A distance of 10 li would normally require a travel time of about one hour on foot, but it only took around the time it takes to brew a cup of tea when travelling on horseback! Halfway down the road, Shi Qingzhuang had lost control and started kissing Qing Shui's face and lips again. This time, Qing Shui had no more hesitation, as he immediately took the initiative and locked his lips with Qing

Shizhuang while caressing her body as she moaned, losing herself in ecstasy.

Perfect!

Suddenly, the Emberlion steed halted its steps, as Qing Shui evaluated the surroundings. This place was truly well out of the way. There was no way for people to discover it unless they already knew of its existence.

Qing Shui carried Shi Qingzhuang in his arms as he kicked open the door. The door was made of stone, and was extremely heavy. It was impossible to open it unless one possessed a few hundred Jin of strength. Most probably, it was used to prevent wild beasts from coming in.

Qing Shui after entering, closed the stone door, and left the Emberlion steed in the garden.

The inside of the courtyard was extremely clean and tidy. There were no weeds growing anywhere, and it seemed that Shi Qingzhuang visited here often. The manor consisted of two levels, with two rooms on each level. Upon seeing that, Qing Shui made his decision and sprinted to the second level. He entered a room near the stairs, and arrived near a bed with a snow-white cover.

Looking at Shi Qingzhuang in his embrace, who had already started to disrobe, hints of uncertainty flashed in Qing Shui's eyes. He knew that if he missed this chance, he would regret it his entire life.

“I’m afraid that she will hate me after this, but even so, if I can’t obtain her love, then I might as well make her hate me forever.”

“Hatred only starts from love. If I can’t make her fall in love with me, then I shall let her hate me instead. Hating me to the point of gnashing her teeth with fury, with me filling her thoughts every night before she sleep!” Qing Shui decisively decided.

With no more hesitation, Qing Shui gently put Shi Qingzhuang on the bed. The fragrance from the flowers permeated the room, but Qing Shui didn’t notice it, as he was too engrossed in the fragrance of Shi Qingzhuang.

From the start, the nefarious fire in his loins had never been extinguished, and his manhood had swelled up to the point that he was afraid that it might explode. Shi Qingzhuang, under the effects of the aphrodisiac, had already totally lost control, and was madly kissing Qing Shui, and wildly clawing at his body.

That passionate kissing caused the blood of Qing Shui to surge, and very quickly both of them laid naked on the bed. Only now did Qing Shui understand the power of the nefarious fire. With his blood surging, he couldn’t even think straight anymore. Lying on top of Shi Qingzhuang, he inserted his manhood inside her as he began to pump and thrust his hips for all he was worth. That feeling... It felt so natural. Moans of pleasure echoed all about, as both Qing Shui and Shi Qingzhuang joined their bodies together, writhing madly in passion.

Now, Qing Shui finally understood the taste of women...

AST: Chapter 87 – Second Level of the Violet Jade Immortal Realm

Qing Shui glanced at Shi Qingzhuang who had fallen into a deep and peaceful slumber. Only while sleeping, would her ice-cold face become so warm and gentle. Qing Shui furrowed his brows, he knew that the pain left behind by him was something of an enormous magnitude. However, he had no regrets upon thinking back on the comfortably numb sensation that he was feeling in his loins. To think that women were so delicious.

Qing Shui hugged Shi Qingzhuang who was sleeping, feeling the smoothness of her skin, and enjoying the feeling of silky softness as he kissed her cheeks softly.

Now, Qing Shui surveyed the room he was in carefully. The room was facing the south, and it seemed to be about noon-time now. The warmth of the winter sun seeped in through the windows, creating an enjoyable atmosphere.

Qing Shui gently covered Shi Qingzhuang with a blanket, covering the alluring figure of Shi Qingzhuang. He sighed in his heart. If only she was his wife...he would definitely be blessed to have a wife as ravishing as her.

Looking at Shi Qingzhuang who was in an extremely deep state of slumber, Qing Shui estimated that she wouldn't be waking up any time soon. He slowly donned his clothes, and then walked to the windows and cast his gaze far off into the horizon, lost in his thoughts.

He had just popped his cherry. The current emotions of Qing Shui were extremely complicated. He just couldn't put it into words. There was joy, after all, his way of thinking was influenced greatly by his previous life. Shi Qingzhuang, was even more ravishing compared to all the great movie stars and actors from his previous life. Of course, after screwing her, there was also a sense of accomplishment. However, there was also a type of longing, which stemmed from his liking of her, and a feeling of loss...

To women, nothing was as precious to them as their first time. Don't be surprised, but this holds true for men as well. Even if a man's first time was given to a hostess at the stripclub, the man will remember that woman forever!

Qing Shui turned his head back, glancing at the soundly sleeping Shi Qingzhuang, before sighing. Did I do the right thing? Will things ever be the same between us again?

After that, he made his way to a remote corner before entering into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

The scene which appeared, caused Qing Shui to be dumbstruck.

Because the current area of the spatial realm that he was in had expanded multifold, more spacious when compared to what it was previously by about 1.5 times. Qing Shui stood right at the center, blankly staring at his surroundings.

"Right, I must have somehow leveled the spatial realm up!" Qing

Shui happily rushed towards the Stone Steele. Before reaching the inscription steele, Qing Shui had noticed that even the crystal pond had doubled in size, and increased in depth. The originally densely packed fishes and turtles in the crystal pond were now spread far apart, no longer as clustered.

During this period of time, the black fish had bred and populated quickly. From baby to adult, in a period of only three days, their scales would shine with a radiant luster. While as for the turtles, they were still palm size, and had not populated any more. Qing Shui couldn't help but wish for the turtle to grow like the fish, but he knew that this couldn't be forced. The ordinary life-span of turtles was measured in centuries or even millennia.

Looking at the over 200 turtles swimming about inside the pond, Qing Shui had a gnawing desire to feast on turtle soup again. Turtles were not only nutritious, they were also considered a symbol of good luck in this world. He thought back to the time at the Yu He inn when he ate his first helping of turtle soup. That heavenly taste, and the effects it had had: boosting blood circulation and Qi, collagen for smoother skin, reducing cholesterol and increasing calcium. Only fools would not choose to eat it. In addition to those benefits, there were many ways of cooking it: boiled, steamed and deep fried with veggies.

Thinking of this, he suddenly realized that Shi Qingzhuang had not eaten anything yet. She would need to nourish her body following the aftermath of the poison detoxification, as well as the enjoyable sex. Why not he prepare turtle soup for her to drink?

Qing Shui caught a turtle in his palm, broke apart it's shell,

removed its internal organs, and obtained its meat. Qing Shui used the water from the crystal pond to cleanse and cook it, adding various seasonings to improve the taste.

Although Qing Shui didn't know the actual method of cooking turtles, all he had to do was to boil the meat until it was cooked. Not only that, but he could be assured of the quality and taste. After all, the turtle meat originated from a turtle living in the crystal pond of his Violet Jade Immortal Realm.

Abruptly, Qing Shui remembered that he had not viewed the inscription steele yet. Qing Shui slowly set the flame level to low, and hurriedly walked towards the stone steele.

On the top of the steele, the words Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal were still engraved atop of it.

Qing Shui continued glancing downwards. After the first level of the spatial realm has been unlocked, there would be an energy-enhancing tree which will bear 10 fruits every 100 years. Each of the fruits would be able to grant a human an additional 500 jin in strength, and would be able to be used as an alchemy ingredient. However, the effects would be useless after consumption of two.

As for the 2nd level, there would be a agility-enhancing tree, which will bear 10 fruits every 100 years. Each of the fruits would be able to increase one's original speed by 50%, and was able to be used as an alchemy ingredient. A person would only be able to enjoy the permanent increase in speed and agility of consumption of two fruits. However, if you eat an additional one after the consumption of two, then your speed will increase by another 50%

for a time period of 15 minutes.

The 3rd level of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was still locked.....

“Wow, the agility-enhancing fruit, a free increase of speed and agility. After the permanent increase from the consumption of two of the fruits, I can still temporarily boost my speed after that!” Qing Shui’s eyes gleamed with unmatched excitement. His speed would truly be going against the heavens if he could increase it by 150%...

The importance of the agility-enhancing fruit, Qing Shui was very clear. The martial arts under the Heavens all placed emphasis on speed. Speed, was also a form of strength!

“Eating two would enable my speed to increase by one fold. Even if I’m not at the Xiantian level, even without breaking through to the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, this increase in speed would be sufficient for me to achieve victory in unexpected situations.”

AST: Chapter 88 – The Power of the Agility-Enhancing Fruit

After Qing Shui looked at the description on the Stone Steele, which clearly indicated that the second level of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was unlocked, Qing Shui looked at the agility-enhancing tree, trying to see if there was any difference.

Next to the energy-enhancing tree, there was another tree which didn't look much different. The fruits on the tree were almost exactly the same as the energy-enhancing fruits, only their color was green. It was a beautiful dreamy shade of green, unlike the green shade of an unripe fruit.

This fruit looked out of the ordinary just from its appearance. The exterior of superior things were usually detailed, stately, or grand and spiritual.

Qing Shui still didn't understand why he had unlocked the second level of the spatial realm, but he just shook his head and stopped dwelling on it. It didn't matter anyways since it was good news!

“Didn't I just fuck a beautiful woman?”

A light bulb seemed to turn on in Qing Shui's mind.

Because of the existence of the strength-enhancing and the agility-enhancing fruits, Qing Shui could assert that the next level

of the spatial realm would probably bring stamina-enhancing, physique-enhancing, and magic-enhancing fruits. Of course, there could always be other fruits that he couldn't think of at the moment, since these were just from a beginner's guide from the game he played, and not really accurate.

There was a Yin-Yang design in his spatial realm. Could it be that he and Shi Qingzhuang were combined like Yin-Yang today?

Qing Shui dropped his jaws in shock. "Could it be that I have to make love to a woman in order to upgrade the spatial realm?"

Qing Shui suddenly became expressionless, with only one thought on his mind, "This spatial realm is so lewd!"

Qing Shui shook his head, "Maybe it's a coincidence? It must be!"

Qing Shui looked towards the green agility-enhancing fruit again. There were ten in total, and each was about the size of an adult's fist. With the experience that he had last time, Qing shui just directly picked a fruit.

It was quite heavy in his hands, weighing approximately half a jin, but it didn't come as a surprise to him because of the experience last time with the energy-enhancing fruit. After all, the agility-enhancing fruit was basically the same as the energy-enhancing fruit except for the color.

Qing Shui looked over the clean agility-enhancing fruit, and took

a bite. “Hmm, it’s pretty crispy, but I don’t taste anything.”

Qing Shui knew that it was an excellent fruit, although tasteless. He quickly finished the agility-enhancing fruit, and ate another one since Qing Shui knew that he had to refine it later.

“Last time I felt a wave of warmth after eating the energy-enhancing fruit. Why is there no feeling this time?” Confused, Qing Shui sat on the ground, and activated his Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Just when Qing Shui was wondering why there was no reaction, a wave of clear qi rose from his abdomen and spread all around his body. That comfortable feeling was like walking out of sludge.

The three million and six hundred thousand of his pores all felt great.

“This feels so much better than when I ate the energy-enhancing fruit.”

“My body indeed feels much lighter.” He took a step, a casual step, but this step stunned Qing Shui because this step was about twice the distance as a regular step. That feeling was excitement! So fast, so far, so profound!

“This is the effect of the agility-enhancing fruit!” Qing Shui could clearly feel that his body was lighter, as if he thrown away a heavy package. His entire body was filled with power!

“Speed is strength, but now I know how it feels. I could only comprehend before that a faster speed would increase the strength of a hit, but if I did not experience it myself like I did today, I really wouldn’t understand how deeply it could affect me!” Qing Shui was pleasantly surprised, as if he stolen another man’s wife.

He plucked all eight fruits to prevent them from taking the place of future fruits. After all, a hundred years later he would get ten more!

Next Qing Shui walked around the spatial realm for a bit. He would need time to get used to the sudden doubling of his speed.

He first tried to walk, then slowly jog, run, and sprint. There were many time when Qing Shui almost fell, or crashed into the barrier.

When Qing Shui could finally barely use his speed right now for ghostly steps, three days had passed in the spatial realm. The pot of delicious turtle soup was already in Qing Shui’s stomach.

He thought about that fragrant smell. The taste which was like the ambrosia of the immortals, and was comparable to sucking Shi Qingzhuang’s saliva when he was kissing her. This clearly showed just how delicious the taste of the turtle soup was.

Grudgingly, Qing Shui caught another turtle, broke apart it’s shell, removed its internal organs, and obtained its meat again. Compared to the first time, Qing Shui was much more skilled, and

his speed was much quicker.

When Qing Shui exited the spatial realm, the time outside had not even been four hours. Qing Shui held the pot and slowly walked towards Shi Qingzhuang's room.

He walked in the room quietly.

Shi Qingzhuang was still in a deep slumber, her brows wrinkled. Her expression seemed as if she could wake up any moment. Qing Shui put the pot, along with a bowl and a small spoon, and placed them on the wooden table in the room.

After setting the food down, Qing Shui slowly walked next to the bed and sat down sideways, and quietly gazed at Shi Qingzhuang. He knew he would probably never have this kind of opportunity again, so he decided to take advantage of it.

Qing Shui wanted to gaze at her this way forever, but another thought told him to leave. He didn't know why he would have that thought, but he felt that was the right thing to do.

Just when Qing Shui decided to leave, he glanced at the the weak and delicate Shi Qingzhuang on the bed. Qing Shui was worried that a bad person or beast would enter the room and make him feel regret for the rest of his life.

It was just that Qing Shui felt unrest in his heart. He was scared of what she would do when she awoke because of the way that he treated her, especially since she had a fiance. In addition, she was drugged with aphrodisiac by her fiance, and was taken away

halfway during her escape...

If her stupid fiance talked nonsense in Hundred Miles city, Shi Qingzhuang's reputation might be lost. However, he most likely wouldn't spread the rumor. Qing Shui was just hoping that the people around him wouldn't talk.

When he saw Shi Qingzhuang's clothes lying around the bed, from outerwear to undergarment, Qing Shui slowly tidied up her belongings. He picked up Shi Qingzhuang's undergarment, a small and shiny silk-like fabric. Although it was nothing outrageous from his past life, like lace or a thong, it still made a man's blood vessels expand.

The blanket just could not cover the sexy curves of Shi Qingzhuang's naked body, and Qing Shui had a complicated look as he stared at it. He didn't want to own it just for a moment. He liked owning things forever, only for him, especially when it involved women. No one can take away his woman after he claimed ownership, unless the woman didn't love him and left voluntarily.

While Qing Shui indulged himself in his fantasy, Shi Qingzhuang on the bed opened her pair of clear eyes.

AST: Chapter 89 – Ice Princess, Shi Qingzhuang

While Qing Shui indulged himself in his fantasy, Shi Qingzhuang on the bed opened her pair of clear eyes.

Seeing that pair of clear and cold looking eyes, caused a stab of pain in his heart. In her eyes, there was only coldness and no other expressions. There was no joy, no anger, not even hatred.

She silently regarded Qing Shui, without blinking. Qing Shui could not look her in the eyes, as he felt guilty for what he had done.

“You must be hungry, let me get some soup for you!” Qing Shui didn’t know what to say, and thus he could only try to find some other topics to break the silence, and try to break the awkward atmosphere.

Qing Shui tried his best to soften his tone, lacing it with warmth and gentleness. However, Shi Qingzhuang’s brows were creased, as she remained silent, and continued gazing at Qing Shui, causing Qing Shui to fear that she was somehow out of it.

Suddenly, Shi Qingzhuang shifted her gaze to the tidy pile of clothes before looking at Qing Shui. After ascertaining that the clothes belonged to her, traces of panic began to show in her eyes.

This slightest bit of panic calmed Qing Shui down. At least, she

was still capable of feeling something, and anything is still better than that state she was in before.

“I want to wear my clothes... Please go out first.” Shi Qingzhuang recovered as she calmly stated. Her voice was akin to that of celestial music, causing Qing Shui to feel extremely comfortable.

“Do you need me to help you put on your clothes? Your body is still unwell.” Qing Shui worriedly added, he was worried that she had yet to recover from their wild love-making from earlier.

“No, I’ll do it myself. Just leave first!” Shi Qingzhuang sat up, as she used the blanket to cover her lower body, before sighing, with her head lowered.

Her appearance now looked very fragile, causing those who looked at her to feel sadness and pity. Qing Shui cast a long glance at Shi Qingzhuang, before slowly exiting the room, thinking of how to interact with her in the future. What if she didn’t want to be his woman.

Sounds of her donning her clothes alongside the sounds of intermittent sobs filled with sadness echoed out in the room. Qing Shui couldn’t take it anymore and decided to rush in, only to see that Shi Qingzhuang was wearing her panties halfway. She let out a gasp of surprise upon seeing Qing Shui rushing in.

It was unknown if that gasp of surprise was filled with embarrassment, shyness or anger!

“Get out! You are not allowed to peek!” Shi Qingzhuang manically exclaimed, as finally, the tears of helplessness rolled down her face.

Qing Shui felt a burst of sourness and pain in his heart. That jade skin, those twin peaks. Qing Shui didn't even register the body of Shi Qingzhuang as he went forth to embrace her in a hug.

“Don't touch me! Go away! I don't want to see you ever again.” Shi Qingzhuang finally broke down, as she sobbed in his embrace.

“I'm sorry, I was too forceful.” This was the first time Qing Shui came across such a situation, so he couldn't help but panic as well. Qing Shui continued embracing Shi Qingzhuang, while helping her with her clothes. After several moments, Shi Qingzhuang regained her calm, and she glanced at that exquisite face of Qing Shui every now and then, not knowing what to say.

Initially, in his embrace, Shi Qingzhuang had struggled against him. However, after he expended tremendous effort in putting on her clothes for her, she had finally calmed down.

On Qing Shui's forehead was a sheen of perspiration. It was as if he just fought in a great battle for three days, and a short while later Shi Qingzhuang was finally fully clothed.

“Umm, I will get some soup for you.” Qing Shui gently said, as he extended his hand to wipe the tears gently from her face.

Qing Shui removed the lid of the pot, and immediately, a fragrance permeated the room. Even a girl with zero desires in her heart like Shi Qingzhuang, couldn't help but to be moved by the delicious smell of food.

Qing Shui dished out the hot piping bowl of turtle soup. He sat on to the bed, and scooped the soup with a spoon, and cooled the soup by blowing on it before gently spoonfeeding Shi Qingzhuang.

Maybe Shi Qingzhuang was hungry, or may be she was unable to resist the fragrance of the turtle soup, but she involuntarily opened her mouth and drank it.

Qing Shui felt satisfaction in his heart as he observed Shi Qingzhuang drinking the soup which he fed to her. Everytime she opened her mouth, Qing Shui couldn't help but be reminded of the kisses they shared during their throes of passion.

Even after she finished eating the turtle soup, Shi Qingzhuang's appetite was still not sated. She shyly glanced at Qing Shui before glancing at that pot of turtle soup again. Upon seeing that, Qing Shui knew that Shi Qingzhuang still wanted to eat, but was too embarrassed to bring up that request.

In his previous world, there was a saying – The best way to a man's heart, was through his stomach. [1] Seems like this was true for this world too.

“I still want more.” Shi Qingzhuang finally spoke, as she blushed. That expression of hers was so delicate that it caused Qing Shui to

be unable to look away.

Just like that, Shi Qingzhuang, drank three more bowls of turtle soul. “This is so delicious, was it made by you?” A bright light flickered in Shi Qingzhuang’s eyes.

“Yeah, hmmm, are you still in pain?” Qing Shui opened and closed his mouth a few times before awkwardly gesturing to the area of her womanhood.

Shi Qingzhuang lowered her head as she bit her lips.

“Okay, okay, I won’t say any more. I was just worried that you would be in pain..... I have something for you to consume, it should be able to aid you in recovery.” Qing Shui awkwardly laughed.

“What thing is that?” Maybe it was still very painful for her, as Shi Qingzhuang inclined her head, as she shyly asked Qing Shui.

The thing Qing Shui had mentioned, was none other than the agility-enhancing fruit. He had long retrieved two of those in preparation for giving them to Shi Qingzhuang. After all, after what he did to her, no matter what happened in the future, he still had to take care of her, and share his happiness and benefits together.

“Clear Wind Fruit!” Shi Qingzhuang exclaimed in wonder.

Qing Shui was filled with a sense of bewilderment again. This fruit also existed in this world of the nine continents? It was the same situation for the energy-enhancing fruit!

“Clear Wind Fruit? Is this very famous?” Qing Shui asked, puzzlement evident in his tone. The clueless Qing Shui had no choice but to use the “Ancient Old Man” as an excuse again should Shi Qingzhuang question him on the origins of the fruits.

“The Clear Wind Fruit only grows on perilous cliffs where the windforce is extremely strong, and torrential winds are constantly raging. It is extremely rare for it to be harvested. This only matures after 100 years, and is exceedingly precious. Normally, only flying beasts would have a chance to discover this, and for every fruit consumed, the user would be able to increase their speed by 50%, however, the stacking effect stops after consumption of two fruits. How did you obtain two of such a precious fruit?”

“An ancient old man once gifted these to me. He only said that it was something beneficial, asking me to consume two and give the rest to someone who’s very important to me.” Qing Shui replied without even blinking.

AST: Chapter 90 – Immediate Charm and Gentleness

An old man once gifted me this, and told me that this is good stuff. After I had eaten two of these, I should pass the remaining to those that are important to me. There's no additional benefits even if I consume more than two." Qing Shui exclaimed without blinking.

That unknown old man, was being used relentlessly by Qing Shui as his excuse. Every time he had no other possible explanation, he would start talking about that "powerful" old man.

"For me to consume?" Shi Qingzhuang was a little surprised as she asked.

Qing Shui resolutely nodded his head in agreement.

"Am I your most important person?" Shi Qingshuang looked at Qing Shui strangely.

"Nope, you are my 2nd most important person." Qing Shui rubbed his nose, as he passed the agility-enhancing fruits over to her.

Shi Qingzhuang couldn't accept it. She stared at Qing Shui curiously, as she murmured in her heart, "This little fellow is a worm filled with lust, but just now he and me..... He didn't even pause to consider before replying, it seems like the weight of the

most important woman in his heart, is extremely heavy indeed.”

“Who’s the most important in your heart then? Why don’t you give these Clear Wind Fruits to her?!” Women, no matter how logical they were, would also have times where they were emotional.

“The most important person in my heart is my mother Qing Yi. I have already saved two for her. If there were only two of these fruits left, then I would only save them for her.” Qing Shui apologetically replied, as he seriously stared into Shi Qingzhuang’s eyes.

“Hehe, I don’t blame you. In fact, I admire those who are filial. No matter how evil or how tyrannical a person is, as long as there’s filial piety in his heart, then he is still human. In my eyes, no matter how much he has sinned, as long as he is filial, all can be forgiven.” Shi Qingzhuang sincerely added.

“You are so beautiful when you smile, why don’t you smile more often?” Shi Qingzhuang’s smile fully displayed her splendor, so beautiful that it caused people to be numb. Only after a long while did Qing Shui finally regain his senses.

Shi Qingzhuang was stunned as she glanced at Qing Shui from the corner of her eyes, “Smooth talking, I once thought you were a gentleman, but you are a beast instead.” Her tone held no traces of malice, but only helplessness.

“I’m still better than a beast. Anyway, I was helpless too... you

know what your situation was that day, I wanted to be more gentle... but you...”

“You... this little rotten egg, stop talking...” Shi Qingzhuang shyly interjected, while her face was as red as the setting sun.

Qing Shui laughed. To be able to melt the ice-princess to such an extent could be considered an extension of his capabilities. Also, knowing that she was his first woman, filled him with pride.

“Are these really for me?” Shi Qingzhuang reclined herself on the pillow as she asked.

“Of course! Didn’t I say that you are the most important person in my life aside from my mother?” Qing Shui passed her the fruits.

“Sweettalker! Anyway you already claimed all the big advantages from me.” After which, Shi Qingzhuang accepted the fruits.

“But... it was also my first time!” Qing Shui exclaimed in a low voice.

“Go to hell!” Shi Qingzhuang replied.

After eating the agility-enhancing fruits, Qing Shui discovered another effect of it. It was able to heal injuries as well. After his body was clawed by Shi Qingzhuang who was in the throes of passion, Qing Shui decided to consume another to aid in the healing of injuries on his body. But who knew that Shi Qingzhuang

recognized the fruit.

“Don’t tell anyone regarding the truth of these Clear Wind Fruits!” Qing Shui smiled as he reminded Shi Qingzhuang.

“En, of course, I don’t want to bring trouble upon myself.”

“Can I still look for you in the future?” Qing Shui lowered his head, waiting for Shi Qingzhuang’s reply. It would not be strange if she hated him forever.

Shi Qingzhuang glanced at him complicatedly, before shaking her head, “May be there’s no fate between us. Qing Shui, just let nature takes it’s course. Don’t ask me why, you will understand it in the future.”

The words of Shi Qingzhuang was within his expectations. Despite this, Qing Shui couldn’t help but feel downcasted.

Looking at the crestfallen expression of Qing Shui, Shi Qingzhuang unexpectedly added, “However, in the future I want to drink this soup you make every week. No wait, I want to drink it every three days instead.”

Qing Shui smiled wryly as he looked at the serious Shi Qingzhuang. Women were unpredictable indeed!

“Let’s leave. What about Situ Bufan though? That scum, why don’t you annul the marriage engagement?” Qing Shui asked while

walking out.

“There are many things beyond my control. Sometimes, humans don’t only live for themselves. Even if they knew that there was a fire pit in front of them, they would still jump in with no hesitation.” Shi Qingzhuang replied.

The words of Shi Qingzhuang struck a chord in Qing Shui’s heart. He had long guessed that the marriage engagement was out of her control. In that instant, many thoughts flashed past his mind, but the most important thing was that he couldn’t aid her in any of these! Because, Qing Shui knew that despite all, she still willing to do the things she didn’t want to do.

Qing Shui really wanted to ask her why that was the case, but this was not the right time. If she wanted to talk about it, then she would have told him.

Once again, the two of them mounted the emberlion steed. Only this time, the feeling was vastly different. When they were riding towards the manor, Shi Qingzhuang was in a semi-conscious state. However, now that they were returning, both of them were clear-headed, which gave rise to a slight feel of romance in the air.

Especially when Qing Shui was hugging the waist of Shi Qingzhuang, his loins thrust against the full and perky butt of Shi Qingzhuang, and getting erect because of the stimulation. The awkwardness of the situation made Qing Shui felt extremely thrilled, as Shi Qingzhuang became speechless.

“I can’t control it. If I don’t have the slightest bit of reaction when I’m grinding against the world’s most beautiful lady, I might as well go and die. It’s only normal, why don’t we both take a step back and endure it. We should reach the city very quickly.” Qing Shui randomly sprouted nonsense again.

“Your warped logic is killing me! You are blatantly taking advantage of me!” Shi Qingzhuang exclaimed as her body arched slightly.

That arch of hers, caused her perky butt to slightly incline in the air. In that instant, Qing Shui shifted his position, and that hard rod of his angled towards her, pressing against her pussy. Even though they were both clothed, both of them still let out a moan.

The body of Shi Qingzhuang became soft as she relinquished control, while Qing Shui pressed in even further. Along with the movements of the emberlion steed, with Qing Shui’s hard rod constantly grinding against her... although it was not as satisfying as sex, it was still extremely stimulating.

Because this time round, Shi Qingzhuang was clear-headed!

Looking at the shy smile on her face, Qing Shui enjoyed this feeling immensely. He felt Shi Qingzhuang’s body slightly shudder, as a moist and warm sensation wrapped around him.

Shi Qingzhuang had already abandoned all concern, and guided Qing Shui’s hard rod inside her, as she climbed atop the mountain of happiness.

AST: Chapter 91 – Evolution of Ghostly Steps

Qing Shui tightly hugged the soft and yielding body of Shi Qingzhuang. Looking at the redness that flushed her cheeks, her fairy-like appearance caused shivers in his heart. Women were so beautiful, so delicious.

Qing Shui did not know if it was true for other women, but for Shi Qingzhuang, a fragrance was exuded from all the pores of her body; even her perspiration was emitting a light fragrance.

The Emberlion Steed was galloping along the small pathways. Qing Shui continued pressing his manhood into Shi Qingzhuang while tightly hugging her from behind, letting the motions of the Emberlion Steed drive them into pleasure. On and off, Qing Shui would fondle the soft mounds of Shi Qingzhuang, grabbing them with increasing strength as the moans of Shi Qingzhuang got louder and more intense.

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“We have arrived at the city gates, so you can get down now. Remember, unless I look for you voluntarily in the future, don’t come looking for me of your own accord. This way, it’s better for both you and me.” Shi Qingzhuang stopped the horse, as she lightly whispered. The hints of the earlier exertions could still be seen from the pinkness of her cheeks.

Qing Shui continued hugging her waist, as he leaned his head over giving Shi Qingzhuang a peck on her lips before dismounting

the Emberlion Steed. “Woman, I will take responsibility for this. If you face any troubles, just tell me, I will do my best to help you resolve any and all troubles!”

The downcast gaze of Qing Shui was filled with an iron-like determination. His clear eyes were filled with traces of love as he stared into the eyes of Shi Qingzhuang. Maybe, Shi Qingzhuang could feel the sincerity of Qing Shui’s statement as well. She did not take offense when Qing Shui used the word “woman”, when referring to her. Her only response was lightly nodding her head, before riding away.

That beautiful silhouette gradually got further and further, and finally disappeared from his sight.

It was already afternoon when they had returned back to the city. When he walked past the city gates, the eyes of the guard flickered with a weird light. However, the guard took no actions to stop him as Qing Shui entered the city. Damn, he remembers me? What a good memory.

Walking towards the direction of the Qing Clan, Qing Shui was sighing at how miraculous fate could be. Today, randomly, he and Shi Qingzhuang both lost their virginity to each other. Now that he thought about it, it only happened because of a series of interconnected coincidences. Could it be that from today onwards, his luck was changing for the better? Rolling deep in wealth as well as embracing beautiful women.

Actually, Qing Shui had another thought in his mind. He intended to smash the fiancée of Shi Qingzhuang, Situ Bufan to a

half-dead state. At the very least, he wanted to cripple the lower body of Situ Bufan, causing him to be unable to procreate.

As he thought of this, Qing Shui suddenly shuddered, wasn't he too vicious? Then again, thinking of what Situ BuFan did, and what would have happened if he had succeeded caused Qing Shui's momentarily change of heart to revert back. To deal with scum, why does he still need to care if his methods were vicious or not.

After returning home, Qing Shui went straight to the Hundred Medicinal Gardens. The plethora of herbs planted in the garden were all emitting a vigorous sense of vitality, markedly different from before. Qing Shui previously had watered them with the water he obtained from the crystal pond back in his spatial realm. This resulted in a vigorous Qi being emitted from the herbs. With regards to this, Qing Shui disregarded the puzzlement and suspicions of others by acting hazy about it. Luckily, they didn't really question it too much. After all, good things were much easier for others to accept.

The days passed by freely. Qing Shui, other than designating a fixed amount of time to cultivate, he spent the rest of his time wandering the streets, looking for treasures. The main things he looked for were spiritual herbs. After all, just by slightly activating the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he would be able to sense the vitality emitted by the herbs. This would enable him to easily judge the value of the herb.

The majority of scarce and precious herbs would usually emit a vigorous sense of vitality. This fluctuation caused by the sense of vitality could be easily be detected by the Qi from the Ancient

Strengthening Technique. Hence, Qing Shui would visit the other medicinal stores during his free time in hopes of procuring rare spiritual herbs.

During the night, Qing Shui would cultivate in his spatial realm, practicing all the techniques he knew. Ancient Strengthening Technique, the Ancient Flames of Yin-Yang, the Primordial Needle techniques, Ghostly Steps, Solitary Rapid Fist and lastly, his skills in alchemy!

As for Alchemy, Qing Shui still couldn't practice it unless he had sufficient ingredients to experiment on. What surprised Qing Shui the most, was that his escaping technique, the Ghostly Steps, had evidently increased a great deal in speed. After all, after he ate the agility-enhancing fruits, his speed had doubled! The shadow of Qing Shui in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, flickered incessantly, giving a sense that he was fading in and out of existence. "Hmm, this improvement vastly surpasses the limits of the Ghostly Steps technique, what is going on?"

Gradually, the speed of his footwork got faster and faster. What was most strange was that given the speed of his movement there was actually no sound or wind being produced. Every step he took seemed to flow naturally, like the waves in the ocean, akin to nature.

The corners of Qing Shui's mouth widened in an arc, as he let out his laughter.

"Inspiration, that's what's important!" Qing Shui smile.

As he experimented with his newly improved speed, during the time when he was utilizing the Ghostly Steps techniques, he was seized by a moment of inspiration and started developing his own style of movement techniques based on the fundamentals of the Ghostly Steps. This resulted in his speed doubling again after including the increase provided by the agility-enhancing fruits. With this twofold increase in speed, it also meant that the explosiveness of his attacks would increase by roughly twofold as well. After all, speed is a form of strength.

“Ai!” Qing Shui exclaimed as he discovered that the Ghostly Steps technique had changed into something called the Free Spirit Steps.

“What the? Level up? But why were there no additional techniques unlocked? The only change was the name itself!”

“Free Spirit Steps it is then. Damn it, it seems useless, albeit better sounding when compared to the Ghostly Steps.” Qing Shui helplessly consoled himself as he took stock of the surroundings of his recently upgraded spatial realm.

The growth of the spiritual herbs transplanted was much stronger when compared to the ones in the Hundred Medicinal Garden. The herbs inside the spatial realm could already be considered to be several tens of years old. Glancing about the garden of herbs, Qing Shui suddenly noticed a plum blossom a few meters away. Suddenly, he was seized by an abrupt longing which manifested in his heart, as he recalled a poem in his previous world.

Plum blossoms lie at the corner of the wall

Enduring through the dark and cold it blossoms

Winter comes and the plum blossoms die

But not before the fragrance from the blossoms thrives

He loved the concept that the poem was highlighting. It doesn't matter if one dies, as long as they had lived brilliantly. Glancing at the various spiritual herbs in his spatial realm, Qing Shui couldn't help but to be reminded once again of the Xiantian Golden Pellet. Do I really have to resort to it?

AST: Chapter 92 – Wenren Wu-Shuang in Trouble

Qing Shui knew that depending solely on his own strength to concoct the Xiantian Golden Pellet was a fool's dream. It was even tougher than depending on his own strength to break through. Some of the materials required were from demonic beasts at the Xiantian level. How could he manage to obtain those necessary materials before he even reached the Xiantian realm?

Furthermore, even if he was at Xiantian, how could it be so easy to hunt a Xiantian-level demonic beast? Previously in Hundred Miles City, there were three humans at the peak of Houtian as well as a Xiantian-level master who went hunting for a Xiantian-level Iron-Armored Demonic Bear. In the end, only the Xiantian-level master survived with half his life left. Not only did he barely survive, but his cultivation base was totally wasted. The three others at the peak of Houtian Realm had died.

This ex-Xiantian master, was none other than the grandpa of Yu He. It was precisely because his cultivation had been crippled that Yu He became the bride of another family with a Xiantian-level master. What a pity that the groom had such an unfortunate life, and he actually died three days before the wedding, having no chance to enjoy intercourse with Yu He.

He knew of the existence of the ex-Xiantian master from the mouth of Yu He. Initially, there was some other businesses outside Hundred Miles City that allied themselves with the Yu Clan. But after the fall of the Yu Clan's Xiantian-level master, other powers soon began to devour these small businesses for their own. In the

face of benefits, strength was the only security!

This incident struck a chord in Qing Shui's heart. In this cultivation-oriented world, strength was everything. If the Qing Clan had a Xiantian-level master, not to mention the Qing Village, even if they want a share of power inside the Hundred Miles City, it was extremely simple to do so. They could just do like the Wenren sisters had done, before Wu-Shuang had broken into the Xiantian realm, they enjoyed the protection of a Xiantian-level master, setting a place as their base and easily earning money with no fear of external threats.

The next day, Qing Shui prepared to go to the Night Fragrance Court. After all it had been some time since he had last visited. Their initial agreement was for Qing Shui to visit the Night Fragrance Court once every two days, but because of various occurrences, Qing Shui couldn't find the time to go there. Over time, Qing Shui started to feel a sense of warmth from going to the place. Everytime he saw Wenren Wu-Shuang, he would smile from the bottom of his heart.

In this world of the nine continents, Qing Shui had almost close to no friends. After every interaction with Wenren Wu-Shuang, he felt closer and closer to her. In Hundred Miles City, there were only two places which he frequented. One, was the Night Fragrance Court, and the second was the Yu He Inn.

As for Shi Qingzhuang, he had no contact with her ever since they returned back to the city. However, she was constantly close to his heart. How he wished to see her again.

When he arrived at the court, he only saw Wenren Wu-Gou. She was still as charming and flirtatious as ever. However, ever since Qing Shui had mastered the Heavenly Vision Technique, he realized that aside from medical conditions, he could also see other things as well. For example, the fluctuations of the heart. Just like right now, Qing Shui could tell that Wenren Wu-Gou was extremely frustrated and filled with worry, even though she looked completely fine on the surface.

“Where’s Wu-Shuang?” Qing Shui unabashedly referred to Wenren Wu-Shuang by her first name.

“She has something to do, and won’t be able to practice swordplay with you these next few days.”

“Is something wrong? Did something happen to Wu-Shuang?” He knew that the two sisters shared a close bond, so how could the source of frustration and worry in Wu-Gou’s heart be unrelated to Wu-Shuang?

Wenren Wu-Gou silently regarded Qing Shui, and upon seeing the clear eyes of Qing Shui which were filled with traces of panic, Wenren Wu-Gou sighed, “Wu-Shuang was poisoned by a demonic beast, and is currently on her way to the Heavenly River City to look for an alchemist to concoct an antidote for her.”

“Poisoned? By a demonic beast?” Qing Shui furrowed his brows. Considering the strength of Wenren Wu-Shuang, she shouldn’t be affected by any of the poisons of common beasts.

“It’s poison from the Golden-Ringed Snake King. It’s fortunate that Wu-Shuang escaped quickly, if not, I wouldn’t dare imagine the consequences.” Wenren Wu-Gou replied.

Golden-Ringed Snake King. Qing Shui knew that this was a Xiantian-level demonic snake. It was extremely massive in size, about 50m long with a width of 1m wide. It had a circular-looking head, and it’s black skin was covered with criss crossing diamond patterns. The head and the tail of the snake was further marked by a golden ring, thereby giving the snake it’s name.

It possessed an extremely strong poison. The poison was able to numb the target’s senses, and ultimately cause heart failure. Qing Shui didn’t know why, but he was currently seized with an ominous foreboding feeling.

“Wu-Shuang went to Heavenly River City alone?”

“Right, don’t worry about it. She possesses medicine to control the poison within her for a month. As long as she can find an alchemist to concoct a Five-Dragon Pellet for her within a month, she would surely be fine.” Wenren Wu-Shuang reassured him. It was as though she had found a support to lean on upon witnessing how distraught Qing Shui was.

Everyone had their moments of weakness. Qing Shui knew that other than each other, Wenren Wu-Shuang and Wenren Wu-Gou had no other family nor friends. If not, how would they be willing to allow the poisoned Wenren Wu-Shuang to travel alone.

Qing Shui could not said to be extremely proficient with his concoction of medical pills, but he still had some knowledge regarding the Five Dragon Pellet. It was just that he had no way to concoct that now. The only thing he could concoct at the moment, was the Golden Sore Ointment Medicine.

“Do you have anyway to contact Wu-Shuang?” Qing Shui furrowed his brows, he felt extremely helpless, just like a filthy rich guy dying of starvation. He had no way of utilizing the wealth of information within his sea of consciousness because it was not unlocked!

“She said that whether she was successful or not in dispelling the poison, she would return in one month.” Wenren Wu-Gou sighed, it was as if the tension had formed a cloud of worry in the air.

“Give me the address of her destination, I might have a method. I’m worried that Wu-Shuang might not be able to hold on for a month!” Qing Shui remembered reading that if it was poison from an ordinary Golden-Ring Snake, there was no doubt that Xiantian-level masters would be able to suppress it for a month. However, as for the poison by the Golden-Ringed Snake King, even Xiantian-level Masters wouldn’t be able to hold out long against that. They might only be able to control the spread of poison for about half a month to a period of 20 days.”

As the saying goes, in dire medical situations, all doctors (even fake ones) were welcome. Wenren Wu-Gou revealed the destination of Wu-Shuang with no hesitation. As long as someone dangled the slightest bit of hope in front of her, she would grab the chance and trust that person, no matter the consequences or the

price she would have to pay.

Qing Shui, upon seeing the frantic Wenren Wu-Gou giving him the destination of Wu-Shuang with no hesitation, he sighed in his heart, “If I was someone with bad intentions, Wenren Wu-Shuang would surely face trouble!”

Actually, Qing Shui was wrong. Wenren Wu-Gou had already seen all types of men from all walks of life. How could her 6th sense and judgement be so inferior? She knew that even though Qing Shui was filled with lust, when there was something important that needed to be done, he was someone that she could trust with her life.

AST: Chapter 93 – First Alchemy Experience

Qing Shui deeply etched the location of Wenren Wu-Shuang in his mind. She had gone to the Xue Clan of Heavenly River City. According to Wenren Wu-Gou, the Xue Clan's Alchemist, Xue Dingjiang, was the sworn brother of their teacher, so if Wenren Wu-Shuang sought out an alchemist in Heavenly River City then without a doubt, she would definitely pay Alchemist Xue a visit.

After he left the Night Fragrance Court, Qing Shui was seriously contemplating if he should go after Wenren Wu-Shuang. However, even if he went, what could he do?

Strolling around the streets with no intentions in mind, thoughts of the laughter of Wenren Wu-Shuang surfaced in his mind. The visage of a lovely woman almost on the level of a celestial immortal, kept surfacing in his mind.

Suddenly, Qing Shui felt a gust of wind blow past. This kind of wind was not formed by the movements of air currents or the weather, but was instead caused by someone running at a fast speed running right in the direction of Qing Shui, as though he was invisible.

Qing Shui was pretty unhappy about such a situation.

Obviously this person was either blind, or trying to seek him out for trouble. With his speed, especially after eating 2 of the agility-enhancing fruits, it was a simple matter for him to dodge. However, he was feeling really frustrated, and coincidentally

someone wanted to become his outlet for unleashing his frustrations. He might as well accept.

“Bang!” A youth collided into Qing Shui.

“Ahhhh!” A voice shrieked.

Qing Shui looked at the 23-24 year old youth who was knocked to the ground. The dark-skinned youth had a huge frame, and was wearing a martial warrior uniform.

“Fuck your mother! You even dare to knock the little brother of this young master down. Don’t you know who the boss is in Hundred Miles City?” A weird-sounding voice rang out.

Qing Shui furrowed his brows as he looked at the figures standing behind the youth. The one in the lead was about 25-26 years old, with a pale countenance, and wearing an expensive embroidered robe. He was also the one that was staring in contempt at Qing Shui, scolding him as if he were scolding an idiot.

In his mind, Qing Shui had already regarded this person as a retard. Although his temper was good, he hated it if anyone insulted his mother. A look as sharp as swords, flickered in his eyes as he stared at the youth.

“What are you looking at? Fuck your mother you son of a b.....”

“ARGHHH!”

Qing Shui moved, with a speed as fast as the sparks from lightning. He aimed a kick at the crotch of the youth, as the sound of nuts cracking rang out, causing the scalps of those who witnessed it to turn numb.

“If you don’t want to die, take this trash and scram!” Qing Shui said, without turning his head back.

Qing Shui was akin to a demon in the eyes of the remaining crowd. In the blink of an eye, their young master was sprawled on the ground, with no hope of a father’s day anymore.

The remaining crowd stared at each other for a moment, before quickly picking up the young master and rushing away.

Qing Shui calmed himself, and then leisurely strolled back to the Qing’s Clan Medical Store. He was still immensely unhappy. He had wanted to kill the youth earlier for the insult to Qing Yi, but ultimately, he had stayed his hands. He didn’t want to dip his hands in blood because of a fool.

However, what he didn’t notice was that there was a shadowy silhouette stalking his movements and monitoring his actions. A strange glow glittered in the eyes of the shadowy silhouette as he informed others about what he had just witnessed.

Qing Shui didn’t notice, in his mind he was only concerned with

the concoction of the Five Dragon Pellet. However, he did not have the recipe. Stressing himself, he forced himself to think back during the times when he had played [Western Fantasy] back in his previous world, trying to recall the memories of his game knowledge. Two 1st-grade medical pills, together with two 2nd-grade medical pill would be able to create a 3rd-grade medical pill through synthesis.

His eyes brightened, “Even if it fails, I have nothing to lose even if it fails.”

The main thing now was for Qing Shui to find 2nd-grade medicine. 1st-grade medicine was very common. 2nd-grade medicine referred to the herbs that were at least 100 years of age. Qing Shui directly went back to the Medical Store, and took a few stalks of 100 year old herbs.

Damn.

Suddenly, Qing Shui suddenly halted in his steps. He had suddenly realized that he did not have a cauldron for concoction purposes.

Wasting no time, Qing Shui proceeded to the Firecloud Blacksmith store again. Truth to be told, the reason he went back wasn't because the Firecloud Blacksmith store was a store with products superior to others. It was obviously because of the lovely store assistant.

As he entered, the middle-aged man passionately called out,

“Young Master, what do you need? Our store possess sufficient amounts of all kinds of weaponry. Even if there’s something that you want that we don’t have, we would be able to manufacture it for you if you give us three days of time.”

“Oh, Uncle, does your store sell concoction cauldrons that are used by alchemists?” Qing Shui smiled.

“Yup, yup we do. You can take a look, we store them inside the eastern room. They cost 10 taels of silver for one.” The middle-aged uncle pointed to a room as he replied with smiles on his face.

Alchemist, this was a profession that burned money, so usually, only rich clans would be able to afford grooming an Alchemist. Qing Shui exclaimed in his heart, “Fuck, this lousy quality cauldron actually cost 10 taels of silver. Even with talent, without money, one would never be able to amount to anything.”

Qing Shui took a look at the cauldrons manufactured from common materials. For 10 taels of silver was indeed tough to buy a good quality cauldron, as he finally selected one, before leaving.

Qing Shui didn’t return to the Qing Clan’s Medical Store. He went to a remote location before entering into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He focused on the memories unlocked in his sea of consciousness, as he mixed the various herbs together. The 4-leaf Flower as well as Fleece Flower Root were separated into portions. The reason why Qing Shui selected the Fleece Flower Root was because its properties consisted of detoxifying poison, improving blood circulation, restore Qi as well as smoothing out the dead air within the inner organs. It was able to increase the

immunity of the body against poisonous substances.

Once everything was prepared, Qing Shui used the primordial flames technique to start boiling the mixed herbs within the alchemy cauldron. Much to his surprise, this low-quality cauldron was able to withstand the heat of his primordial flames!

After a while, Qing Shui increased the intensity of the flames, as the sounds of the water seething got increasingly louder. An hour later, when Qing Shui could no longer sustain his primordial flame technique, only then did he hear the sounds that indicated a successful concoction.

“Success?” Qing Shui felt incomparably joyful. Usually, if pill concoction was a failure, there would be a mini-explosion of some sort.

Qing Shui’s hands trembled as he lifted the lid, only to discover a white layer of cloudy powder at the bottom of the cauldron.

“What is this?”

Qing Shui was stunned for a moment. He scooped the white cloudy powder out from the cauldron. The quantity was very meager as there was only a pinch worth.

“Is this 3rd grade medicine?” Qing Shui suspiciously questioned himself. Why is it in a powdered form.

Qing Shui sunk himself deep inside his sea of consciousness, trying to find hints of what this cloudy powder might be.

“Ai! Golden Sore Ointment?”

Qing Shui’s eyes brightened as he discovered that he had somehow successfully concocted a medicine from his sea of consciousness!

Qing Shui was immensely joyful after his first successful attempt. Immediately, he restarted the whole process, only pausing to recover his Qi before igniting the primordial flames again and again.

The greater the hope, the bigger the disappointment. All of his later attempts produced nothing but Golden Sore Ointment.

“How can I concoct the Five Dragon Pellet?” He asked himself as he poured all the cloudy powder into a jade bottle.

He went into meditation in order to recover the energy spent after he decided to stop for the day, when suddenly, a progress-bar like thing suddenly appeared under the Golden Sore Ointment segment in his sea of consciousness!

“Experience Bar, 0.5%. 99.5% more experience needed to unlock the next pill on the list, the Small Revitalizing Pellet.” Qing Shui smiled. At last, he had finally embarked onto the path of becoming an Alchemist!

AST: Chapter 94 – The Raging Situ Ba

Qing Shui had finally embarked on the pathway of becoming an Alchemist. As long as he persevered then he would surely achieve his dreams of becoming someone who was most revered in this world – Alchemist.

However, a trace of worry had seeped in his heart, intermingling with the joy he felt within. To unlock the information regarding the Five Dragon Pellet, was still a long distance away. He was worried about the condition of Wenren Wu-Shuang, would she be able to suppress the spread of poison? What if she could not, what would he do?

Qing Shui didn't understand why Wenren Wu-Shuang would hold such an important place in his heart. What is happening to me? Shi Qingzhuang and Yu He are bad enough, why am I still so worried for Wu-Shuang.

In his spatial realm, he spent three days to concoct 1 Jin worth of Golden Sore Ointment, and gained even more experience. However he was still frustrated with his progress. After he calculated it, if he wanted to hit 100% experience, then he would need to spent at least 600 days inside the spatial realm, concocting nonstop.

The helpless Qing Shui exited the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, “Forget it, this can't be rushed. I will do what I can, and hope for the best. Wu-Shuang, you must hang in there.”

Qing Shui exited the spatial realm, and made his way back to the

At this moment, in the Situ Residence, the leader of the Situ Clan was currently feeling a mix of extreme anger and worry as he stared at his little son, Situ Shang. Blood flowed unceasingly from the lower part of his body as Situ Shang laid on the bed.

“Quickly, go invite Doctor Lei.” Situ Ba roared.

“Yes yes yes!” A servant panickedly rushed out.

Outside the door, a few other youths knelt down, not daring to move in the slightest. They were the group together with Situ Shang, who had antagonized Qing Shui earlier in the morning. Usually, they would bully the locals, and commit all sorts of atrocities with Situ Shang.

Situ Ba was nearing 60 in age. Because of his obsession in the martial path, he married late and had only two sons. One of them, was the strongest among the 3rd generation of the Situ Clan – Situ Luan. The other son, was Situ Shang.

Although the secret of Situ Luan was highly confidential, his father Situ Ba, naturally would know about it. Despite this, he was helpless and could only place his hopes on his little son. Although Situ Luan was extremely powerful in his way of the martial path, Situ Ba knew that the reins of the Situ Clan could not be handed

over to him. Situ Luan was already someone doomed to never be able to produce a descendant for the Situ Clan!

More importantly, there was a dark side to Situ Luan. His heart was only filled with malice, and was full of holes. If his secret was discovered one day, it would be extremely easy to destroy him.

But now, even Situ Shang was injured to such an extent, wasn't this equivalent to destroying the entire line of reproduction for the main branch of the Situ Clan? His little son, Situ Shang, was an incredibly lustful figure. This injury was worse in comparison to killing him. Situ Ba's anger had already reached his limit, as he let out a roar. He needed a target to unleash his anger.

"Who? Who did this? WHO DID THIS?" Situ Ba trembled as he roared at the kneeling youths.

"Bai Qiang is currently tracking the movements of that guy, we..... we would have an answer soon....." One of the shivering youths stuttered, as beads of sweat trickled down his face.

"Fucking trash, what do I need you for!"

Situ Luan howled as he slammed his palms on the youths who were kneeling on the ground. Instantly, a pressure akin to the weight of a mountain erupted forth, just like a ferocious tiger springing forth to devour its prey. The bodies of the youths shattered into smithereens, only leaving behind pools of blood and flesh. Blood covered the entirety of Situ Ba's face and clothes, making him look like a crazed demon.

At this moment, the youth name Bai Qiang, the one who had been following Qing Shui, returned. Upon seeing the terrifying sight, he immediately felt his body go soft as he knelt onto the ground, his body trembling violently.

“Speak, who did this to my Shang`er?” Situ Ba quietly spoke. The tone of voice was even more horrifying compared to when he had howled.

“He... He is...” Bai Qiang stuttered as he tried to calm himself to speak.

“Speak, I can spare you from dying. If not, your end result will be the same as them.” The sharp gaze of Situ Ba fixated on the fearful Bai Qiang.

“He is...Qing Shui from the Qing Clan.”

“Fucking trash, you still want to play tricks with me? You think you will be able to keep your life if you did this?” Situ Ba unleashed a kick, sending Bai Qiang flying away. From the beginning, he had no intentions of sparing him.

The sounds of bones shattering rang out, as blood sprayed out like a shower of rain in the air.

“Young Master Shang’s life is no longer in critical danger, but he would no longer be able to produce a heir in the future.” A amiable

white-haired old man walked towards Situ Ba as he whispered in a low voice.

“Thank you Uncle Lei.” Situ Ba sighed without strength.

“I’m going to meet with Father, so I will leave Shang`er in your care.”

“Don’t worry, I will take care of Young Master.”

Situ Ba’s expressions sunk as he left. At this moment, the grief in his heart was ravaging around like a tornado. As the saying goes, the most painful thing for a woman was to bury her father when she was young, bury her husband when she’s middle-aged, and burying her son when she’s old, there was nothing more painful that could be compared to this. Although these circumstances were not what Situ Ba was experiencing, it was somewhat similar to it.

At this moment, in the Situ Residence, Situ Bufan was practicing his swordplay while Situ Nantian was guiding him along, offering pointers and correcting his mistakes. Because Situ Bu Fan’s parents passed away when he was young, he had always followed Situ Nantian as he grew up.

Situ Nantian was the previous head of the Situ Clan, and he had a total of 10 sons. Situ Ba was his youngest son, and at the same time, he was also the one with the greatest potential, with the possibility of reaching Xiantian. Situ Ba was obsessed with cultivation, which led to him only having a wife and two sons. This was extremely rare for a young master from a clan with status and power.

Maybe that was why he managed to reach the peak of the Houtian Realm at such a young age.

Initially, Situ Nantian didn't want to pass the position of clan leader to Situ Ba. However, he did so at the insistence of Situ Ba, as he added on a guarantee that he would definitely pass the position of Clan Leader on the moment he reached Xiantian.

These words carried a hint of threat to Situ Nantian, but he still acquiesced. After all, Situ Ba was the only person that was closest to Xiantian. Although the Situ Clan possessed several peak Houtian masters, the siblings of Situ Ba only wanted to enjoy themselves, and did not want to burden themselves with the troubles of running a clan.

“Grandpa, is Qing Shui really that strong? Every time I faced him, I was defeated even before seeing his true strength.” Situ Bufan asked, as he finished his sword practice.

“Remember, don't entangle yourself with him in the future. You should just focus on your own path of cultivation. Your talent is above average, and in addition, our clan can still be considered rich. In the near future, your Uncle Lei will concoct a type of pill that would increase your cultivation speed upon ingestion. As long as you eat that, breaking through Xiantian before the age of 40 is not a mere fantasy. As long as you stepped into the Xiantian realm, then everyone in Hundred Miles City would merely be an ant in your eyes.”

Situ Bu Fan's eyes glowed with a strange light. He would wait till he broke through Xiantian before thoroughly playing with Qing Shui.

At this moment, the black face of Situ Ba appeared in the garden where Siti Bu Fan and Situ Nantian were at.

“Father!”

“Uncle, you are here!” Situ Bu Fan Respectfully called out.

“Fan`er, I have things to discuss with your grandfather.” Situ Ba explained.

“Understood.” Situ Bu Fan smiled, as he departed.

“Father, that little bastard Qing Shui, crippled my son Shang`er.”

AST: Chapter 95 – Tragedy of Being Powerless

“Father, that little bastard Qing Shui crippled my son Shang`er.”

“What? What did you say? Explain clearly. Why would Shang`er antagonize that little bastard?”

“You should know the personality of this child Shang`er, somehow he met Qing Shui earlier, and scolded Qing Shui. The end result, Qing Shui directly wasted him.” Situ Ba hatefully said, both of his hands were clenched into fists, trembling by his sides.

“The Qing Clan is obviously advocating provocation. They even dare to do this, not caring for our status in Hundred Miles City. Father, I must definitely cripple Qing Shui. If not, how can I still hold my head high in the future?”

Upon hearing what Situ Ba said, Situ Nantian didn't immediately reply. In his heart, he felt the same as Situ Ba. How could he feel good if his own grandson was in such a sorry state? If he was beaten up, no harm was done, but now, he would definitely have no chance of becoming a father. This humiliation, is too tough to bear.

“The Qing Clan truly does not know what death is. Do they really think that with the lone Peak Houtian Qing Luo, they can do as they wish in Hundred Miles City? Ba`er, carry Shang`er to the Qing Clan. No matter what, I want to talk it over. We need to win the battle of logic before we make a move. Since the Qing Clan

disregarded the matter of face, we don't have to care so much about the consequences anymore." Situ Nantian appeared to be deep in thoughts, as he replied.

Upon hearing Situ Nantian's reply, Situ Ba nodded his agreement as he prepared to leave.

"Bring more people, call your 3rd uncle along. Remember, we will go only after Shang`er's injuries have stabilized." Situ Nantian added, as he drank a mouthful of tea. His expression was no longer as calm as compared to earlier.

Qing Shui continued practicing his cultivation as well as increasing his expertise in concocting pills. The Yu He Inn's business got more and more popular as the taste of the black fish got wildly exaggerated. This was food from the realm of gods, or so some of the rumors said.

The results of that was it attracted even more customers over. Among them, were some customers like Uncle Lei of the Situ Clan. They could tell that the miraculous taste was not derived from a person's cooking skill, but was instead from the original taste of the fish itself.

Although the business of Yu He Inn was blooming, Yu He got increasingly frustrated. This was because her elder brothers and uncles now wanted a share of Yu He Inn.

Yu He knew that they were here purely for the black fish. They were jealous of the benefits and wealth that Yu He was earning, that was why they wanted a stake of the business. After that, they could slowly trace who the supplier of the black fish was, and then they would then use their considerable wealth to buy out the supplier, leaving none for the Yu He Inn and thus boosting their own income.

All of this was very clear to Yu He. After all, she knew the history of these guys. Thus, she had no choice but to find reasons to reject them, which caused much unhappiness. Luckily the grandpa of Yu He doted on her very much. Although he was no longer Xiantian level, some of his might from before still remained. Furthermore, he was still their elder.

Yu He was lost in a daze, as Qing Shui entered her room. The door was open, so Qing Shui could see the brows of Yu He tightly knit together, revealing traces of worry. However, even with a face full of worry, it did nothing to diminish her beauty.

“Boom boom boom!” Qing Shui knocked on the door, causing Yu He to awaken from her earlier dazed state. After realizing that it was Qing Shui, she cast a glare over at him as she scowled.

“What happened? You are acting like a little girl. Were you dreaming of your prince charming riding on a 7-colored cloud, equipped with a golden armor, coming to marry you? Well, I’m here now.” Qing Shui smiled as he walked over.

“Pfft, your black fish are causing me endless trouble.” Yu He slightly pouted, which caused Qing Shui to gulp. Somehow, this

action of Yu He was very appealing to him.

“Trouble? What happened?” Qing Shui did not feel too surprised. After all, good things would surely invoke jealousy and envy from others.

“The members of my clan are the troublemakers. Usually, they wouldn’t even care about me. Other than my grandpa, the rest of them don’t treat me as part of the Yu Clan at all. Now that they see my Yu He Inn rolling in the money, all of them want a stake in it. Were it not for my grandpa, the Yu He Inn would have been snatched away long ago.” Yu He angrily exclaimed.

“Oh, is your grandpa still okay?” Qing Shui didn’t want to comment on the actions of the members of the Yu Clan, thus he found an excuse to divert the topic.

“Still in the same old state, he’s paralyzed from waist down. To think that he had once reached Xiantian, but now he has ended up in such dire straits” Yu He’s eyes reddened with tears.

Qing Shui knew that she was very closed to her grandfather, since childhood she was brought up by her grandfather. Back when Yu He had an marriage engagement, her grandfather was still a Xiantian-level existence. Who knew that the groom was so ill-fated, that he actually died before he had a chance to consummate his marriage with Yu He. At that point of time, when her grandfather was still a Xiantian, annulling the marriage would have been as easy as flipping his palms over. However, it was in bad taste for them to announce the annulment of marriage straight after the unfortunate incident, and thus, her grandfather had

decided to hold back. However, as the fates would have it, soon afterward, the demonic beast incident occurred, and her grandfather was crippled. The 18 year old Yu He, had remained a widow since then, up until now when she had already reached 28.

The criteria of the family of the groom to annul the marriage was simple. As long as someone at the Xiantian-level asked it of them, they would be willing to do so. All they wanted was a stage for them to exit. However, it was precisely because of this criteria that they had caused such a ravishing beauty to waste 10 years of her youth, doomed to a lifetime of loneliness.

Xiantian, in all of Hundred Miles City, which boasted a population of 5 million people, the number of Xiantian cultivators could be counted on both hands!

“In 3 days it’s my grandpa’s 80th birthday. Can you come with me?” Yu He lightly whispered.

Qing Shui was somewhat puzzled, why did Yu He suddenly invite him along? After what he did with Shi Qingzhuang, Qing Shui had decided to focus solely on Shi Qingzhuang. As for the matter with Wenren Wu-Shuang, his concern was borne from pure friendship, nothing more, nothing less.

The moment when love sparkles between a man and a woman, can be instantaneous, and in unexpected situations!

It was not that he never once thought of possessing Shi Qingzhuang, Yu He and Wenren Wu-Shuang. However, people

change as time goes by. Wenren Wu-Shuang was someone that could make him fall head over heels, and if there were no unexpected situations occurring, the person that he would most likely woo would be none other than Wu-Shuang. However, such is life. Who knew that the matter with Shi Qingzhuang would suddenly pop out in the middle of nowhere. Now, Qing Shui only wanted to be nice to Shi Qingzhuang. Regretfully, things were never as simple as they seemed.

Because even now, Qing Shui couldn't begin to guess at Shi Qingzhuang's heart!

AST: Chapter 96 – Sending a Letter to Wenren Wu-Shuang

Looking at the dejected look on Yu He's face, Qing Shui lightly nodded his head, to show his consent.

After Qing Shui had agreed to her request, Yu He was extremely joyful. The earlier worries that had tightly knit her brows, finally relaxed. A radiant smile akin to a blooming flower was displayed on her face.

That radiant smile of hers revealed her pearly white teeth. The blacks of her eyes, set in that snow-white, jade-like face, was filled with intelligence, and happiness.

Qing Shui silently sighed in his heart. The burden Yu He carried was heavy indeed. Lacking parental love from childhood, bearing the name of a widow, she didn't even have the right to make a stand on the matters of marriage.

After staying a while longer, Qing Shui rose as he bid goodbye to Yu He. From the point of his arrival until he departed, Qing Shui had not made any moves, neither verbal nor physical, to flirt with Yu He. Yu He felt that something was wrong... She felt as though Qing Shui wanted to draw a clear boundary between the both of them.

The strings of her heart were twisted, it was as though she had suddenly lost something... Something precious that she had had before, but was now lost because she had failed to cherish it.

Yu He's eyes dimmed, as she forced herself to remain smiling, watching the departing back of Qing Shui. She had already thought it through. Qing Shui and herself, how could they possibly ever have a future together?

Thinking of her own restricted freedom, thinking back to the times when she had joked around with Qing Shui, saying that if she were to have a guy outside, the guy would definitely be Qing Shui, Yu He couldn't help but feel tears streaking down her face despite her forcefully suppressing it.

After Qing Shui left, he made his way through the crowded streets before coming to an intersection which was blocked by a gang of people led by a smiling, burly man.

Qing Shui unhappily glanced at the ones blocking his path.

“Friend, can I talk to you for a moment!” The guy smiled widely, revealing his teeth!

“Not free.”

“Hey kiddo, our Greenwolf Gang just wants to talk to you, why are you so arrogant?” A sturdy youth with thick muscles that looked like a dimwit called out angrily.

“Greenwolf Gang? What the hell is that?” Qing Shui shook his head.

“Friendly relations should still exist between the buyer and seller even though they failed to clinch a deal right?” That guy in the lead smiled.

Qing Shui contemplated the man in front of him. This guy was about 24-25 years old, and was filled with confidence. Calmness showed in both his eyes, as his demeanor appeared relaxed, even somewhat friendly.

Qing Shui glanced again at the unruly members behind the leader’s back, they all appeared bored and somewhat out of sorts, totally lacking any semblance of discipline. “The Greenwolf Gang, don’t tell me that it was just established today? With the few of you?”

“How did you know...”

“Second Dumbo, shut your fucking mouth!” Another skinny looking youth interjected when that muscular youth from earlier unintentionally blurted it out.

“I don’t want to lie to you my friend, what you said is correct. I figured that you can tell we are all from poor families. Actually the ten plus members of the Greenwolf Gang, we are all orphans, and grew up in the city since childhood.” The leader sighed.

Qing Shui laughed, as he fixed his gaze on the eyes of the youth. “I don’t care if what you are saying is the truth, or even if it’s all lies. Why are you telling me all of this? Do you want me to give you money? Sorry, but I’m a poor man too.”

The leader stared at Qing Shui, dumbstruck. Momentarily going speechless.

“I’m not a beggar, I just want to work with you!” The leader hurriedly said. This time around, control was slipping from his grasp.

“Cooperation? Why do I want that?” Qing Shui creased his brows, why in the world did this bunch of hooligans want to work together with him?

“We want you to join our gang, no, we want you to lead us.”

The words from the leader caused Qing Shui to be startled, what the hell was going on?

“I will give you five minutes, let’s see if you will be able to move me with your words.”

“We know that you are Qing Shui from the Qing Clan, and hope that if in the future, if you need any help, you can look for us. We have networks all around the city, and know of the latest updates and news of things happening. We are willing to be your arms and legs. Somehow, I feel that you are someone who would be able to

accomplish great things, leading us to greatness. Look at us, a bunch of scallywags with nothing but brute strength. If we ever wanted to rise and have power of sorts, we can only choose to follow someone that's powerful."

"You say that you know all of the happenings in Hundred Miles City? Tell me something that can prove your worth to me."

"The black fish of Yu He Inn, were provided by you."

"....."

Qing Shui was extremely astonished in his heart, but he did not allow his surprise to show on his face. He only took out pen and a paper as he wrote, "Wu-Shuang, swiftly return to Hundred Miles City upon seeing this. I have a solution for your problem."

"Bring this to the Heavenly River City, I don't care what method you use. As long as you pass this letter to a person named Wenren-Wushuang before 10 days is up. She's extremely beautiful, and is on her way to the Xue Clan. As long as you complete this, I'm willing to cooperate with you."

After which, Qing Shui handed the letter over to the leader.

"This is 500 taels of silver. For your expenses. Don't be afraid to spend the money, I only request efficiency. If you can't even accomplish this, there's no need to look for me any longer."

Qing Shui left right after saying those words.

“Boss, is he worth us following him?” the skinny guy asked with doubt in his tone.

“I have researched his history and linked various happenings with him after he had arrived in Hundred Miles City. He is definitely not someone ordinary. We would surely thrive if we threw in our lot with him.”

The others all went silent, because they knew that their leader had exceptional judgement. Very quickly, their eyes were all filled with conviction!

AST: Chapter 97 – Grandpa's Yu Birthday

After Qing Shui left, he wasn't sure whether this was the right or wrong decision to make. In the end, he stopped thinking about it. At the most, he would only lose 500 taels of silver. After all, since he did not say anything at all earlier, he shouldn't have any trouble coming his way. He was not afraid of trouble. If due to his carelessness, he was able to get Wenren Wu-Shuang to rush back in time, then it would all be worth it.

Three days passed. It was a very rowdy day for the Yu Clan in Hundred Miles City. Today, was the elder's 80th birthday. Over ten years ago, the Yu Clan used to be the number one most prominent clan in Hundred Miles City. Even now, it is still one of the four major clans.

Anyone whose name was known to the public in Hundred Miles City would attend the Yu Clan's elder's birthday, and send him their gifts. There were far too many people who wanted to obtain connections with the Yu Family. After all, in this city in which the population of the city had just climbed up over a million people, the Yu Clan was considered very aristocratic.

"Mother, I promised Yu He that I would help her grandfather celebrate his birthday. You should come together with aunt." Qing Shui had only found out that his mother would also be visiting the Yu Clan today. he could only awkwardly rub the back of her head in embarrassment.

"Ai, mother is too old for these events noe. My son and a beautiful girl are going together," Qing Yi teased.

“How could that be? You’re only how old? So many people think that you are still unmarried. Moreover, you still have a mesmerizing beauty that entrances others. How could you be considered old if you’re so gorgeous. Whoever says that you’re old will end up with their teeth all over the floor.”

“Ok, I won’t compete anymore with you, you little rascal. Your uncle, your aunt and I will go together. Make sure to be prudent since there are a lots of people, and don’t cause any trouble for the Yu Clan!” This last line was especially important, since Qing Yi felt Qing Shui wasn’t the most obedient kid!

When Qing Shui met Yu He again, he was dumbstruck. Yu He’s wardrobe consisted of a purple cloud-patterned dress, and a sky-blue-colored shawl. Her hair was tied up with a crested hairpin that brought out her elegant and noble aura.

Her snow-white skin, slender neck and her breasts proudly puffed out made everyone stare at her in awe, leaving their mouths agape. Her bare slim waist was followed by her well rounded and plump butt.

Although her legs were already very long, her long snow white boots gave her a fairy-like aura! “Does it look good?” Yu He asked, as she slightly smiled at Qing Shui’s dumbstruck expression. “Very nice. It’s as though a celestial being has descended!”

The Yu Clan was located in the inner eastern side of Hundred Miles City. Actually, the Yu Clan’s wide front door was usually

bombarded with heavy traffic. Some busy middle-aged people quickly greeted the high ranking officials who had come to celebrate the elder's birthday. Everyone had a smile upon their face. The people who had arrived earlier returned the greetings with a smile as well. The people who had arrived at the front door all generally came out of luxurious horse carriages!

“Lady, you’ve returned.” When Qing Shui and Yu He stepped down from the horse carriage and walked to the entrance, a middle-aged man put on his most professional smile and welcomed them.

Yu He nodded her head, then headed inside with Qing Shui.

It was no doubt worthy of being a prominent clan in Hundred Miles City. The name of this entire street was Yu Street. This was Qing Shui's first time coming to this street. The street wasn't very long, but it was basically all part of the Yu Clan's property. The courtyard that they were using to celebrate the elder's birthday was one of the most central and important places.

As they walked in, Qing Shui looked at the comfortable and simple interior design. Although there were faux mountains, rocks and water, but it didn't feel extravagant. It actually felt closer to being natural. There were chairs and tables everywhere in the courtyard. All the tables were noisy with chattering and small talk. It drew out a clear distinction between the people, as similar people flocked together and separated.

“Sister, this way!” Qing Shui raised his head towards the direction of the voice. A bright and handsome young man faced

their direction waving his hand.

“I will take you there. That is my younger brother Yu Jian!”

“Sister, I will help you greet your friend. You should first go meet grandpa. The elders said that if you don’t come to them, then you’re pushing them to come out to see you. They just won’t come out in the end.” Yu Jian smiled at Yu He . The smile contained his love for his sister, but also a small trace of shame.

A middle-aged person with a gentle demeanor walked over with a smile, and in his clear voice relayed, “The Yu He has finally returned. Your grandfather has been waiting for you for quite some time now. Go and meet the elders.”

“Oh, third uncle, I understand. I will head there immediately!”

After Yu He finished talking, she faced Qing Shui, smiled a little and then left.

“Come come, you are Qing Shui right? I often hear my sister talk about you. Let’s sit together!” Yu Jian greeted Qing Shui with much passion and vigor.

Qing Shui felt very awkward, as Yu He’s brother was much older than he was. Qing Shui smiled and nodded his head. With Yu Jian, they walked to the side where there were already tables and chairs prepared for three people.

When they arrived, the three people were already standing up and smiling, meaning that they were welcoming Qing Shui. Two women and one man. The man was around thirty years old, with a firm body, thick eyebrows and large eyes. The two women were quite beautiful, but they were a bit young. They looked around 17-18 years of age and had a petite but fully developed body stature. Normally, a 17-18 year old would already be considered an adult, but one of the girls who was wearing a green dress had an oval-shaped face along with fair skin and fresh doll-like features. Contrary to her face, she had a pair of mountainous peaks that even Yu He couldn't compete against. Qing Shui wondered whether they would fall off of her.

“Qing Shui, this is Ding Lang, and these two are Ding Yuan and Ding Bao. The three of them are siblings.”

“Hello Qing Shui! I've heard of your name so many times.” Ding Lang put his hand out with a forthright smile.

The smiling Qing Shui put his hand out as well. “You must be Ding Lang, hello! I've heard quite a bit about you!” Qing Shui looked up and down at this stalwart and resolute youth. He had known for a while now that Ding Lang is the strongest person among the youngest generation in Hundred Miles City.

The moment their hands touched, Qing Shui felt a shocking probe of Ding Lang's strength.

The two loosened their grips on each other. Outsiders couldn't tell what was happening, but Qing Shui and Ding Lang were both well aware.

“You’re so awesome. I’ve heard you’ve been going rampant recently.” With her large breasts and child-like face, the loli Ding Yuan merely blinked with her large pair of eyes.

Qing Shui watched Ding Yuan give a bitter smile as a multitude of people drooled over the loli. Even Qing Shui who had no interest in the loli had no choice but to admit that Ding Yuan was really attractive.

“I’ve never taken initiative to give someone trouble, it’s always the others who want to bully me. Also, I don’t want to be bullied so I used a bit of my strength and ended up accidentally beating them up.” With a bitter smile, Qing Shui said that it sounded like the incident was actually not his fault, and that he was only doing it because he had no choice. It was like others were begging him to hit them.

“Ke ke ke. Brother, this person is so interesting!” The sound of Ding Bao’s crisp and loveable laughter brought forth a cute sound that rang out through the air.

Qing Shui shifted his gaze over to Ding Bao, the girl who had the temperament of a young lady. She was considered very refined. Her face was exquisite and small, adorned with a pair of sparkling eyes, a refined nose and a petite mouth.

A petite figure is most definitely very delicate. Her body lines were very smooth, contouring her perfect hourglass figure with great breasts and perky ass. Fortunately, Qing Shui didn’t have any

interest in youthful girls because everyone else seemed to be going crazy over these two high quality lolis.

Qing Shui could only think about these things since he was not 17 years old yet. To be exact, compared to Qing Shui, these two were older than him by a bit. However, Qing Shui looked like the type of person where you could ignore his age. Even if you said that he looked 20 years old, it wouldn't be insulting. Qing Shui's appearance looked bewitchingly different from others, making people easily mistake his age. It felt as though he had eyes that could seduce any woman.

With Yu Jian's existence, the few people were able to chat happily. The two small girls were innocent and seemed to be unaware of the situation. The atmosphere had heated up quite a bit, especially Ding Yuan and Ding Bao who were murmuring incessantly to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was unable to reply to some of their questions. Thankfully, not long after, Yu He pushed out Yu Dong Hao who was riding on a wheelchair. Yu He stood next to the middle-aged, gentle looking man while shouting stupid comments.

After the Yu elder clinked one glass with his company, he let Yu He control where he pushed his wheelchair. The other elderly people of Hundred Miles City went to exchange some greetings with those who were attending the party. In the end they actually arrived at the table where Qing Shui was residing.

AST: Chapter 98 – Heaven-Defying Primordial Needle Technique!

After old master Yu toasted everyone, and eventually he arrived at the table where Qing Shui was sitting.

“Grandpa!”

“Grandpa Yu!”

“Grandpa Yu!”

Yu Jian, Ding Lang, Ding Yuan and Ding Bao all called out respectfully.

“Qing Shui here, I’ve met old master Yu before.”

Qing Shui smiled as he respectfully dipped into a bow!

“Good, good!”

“Lass, this your friend Qing Shui? Excellent, excellent!” Old master Yu praised Qing Shui doubly, his voice bright and filled with vitality.

Qing Shui contemplated Yu Donghao on the wheelchair. He looked like he was over 50 years old, with a head full of white hair

and a refined appearance. He had a wide-looking forehead, and eyes filled with vitality. That deep gaze of his, left behind a deep impression in Qing Shui's mind.

Seems that Old master Yu had already walked out of his depression. This bespoke that Yu Donghao was someone with an iron-clad will. If it was someone else who had fallen from the Xiantian realm to become a commoner, they may even give up on living.

The heavenly vision technique of Qing Shui probed Yu Donghao from head to toe. The energy channels and Dantian of Old Master Yu clearly appeared in his vision.

His Dantian was contorted like a pretzel, while his energy channels were all shrunk and withered. Especially the energy channels near his legs, "No wonder he was crippled, seeing the damage that his body has sustained, it's already extremely fortunate for him to have come back alive."

"His injuries are somewhat similar to Baili Jingwei, just many times more serious. I wonder if my primordial needle techniques would be of any help here."

Thinking of this, his heart warmed. He should use this chance for an experiment, and see if his primordial needle techniques would be effective. Combining the primordial flames together with the primordial needle techniques, he may achieve a miracle that defies Heaven.

As the night wore on, eventually, Yu Donghao returned back to his room. What's strange was that, Yu He actually pulled himself along to accompany Yu Donghao. Qing Shui felt extremely out of place, after all they were grandfather and granddaughter, while he was an external party.

“Well, might as well tell him what's on my mind!” Qing Shui decided to follow Yu He to Old Master Yu's room.

“Qing Shui right? The lass said that the black fish were provided by you, they are truly delicious. This old man is already 80 years in age, and despite my age, I have never eaten a dish with such a wonderful taste before.”

“Thank you. If you want to eat it, I will let Sister Yu to cook one for you every day.” Qing Shui modestly replied.

“Sigh, this lass's fate is truly bitter. Were it not for her, I may have already lost the will to continue living.”

Qing Shui hesitated a while, as he replied. “Old man, I know something similar to the medical arts, I wonder if you would allow me to practice my style of treatment on you? My medical skills are somewhat different from others, but there's a chance that I might even cure you!”

Yu Donghao laughed, “Child, thank you for your kind words. But I know better than any others just how bad my own condition is. If there are no miracle pills or celestial pellets, I will always remain a cripple.”

Qing Shui felt impressed by how level-headed Yu Donghao is. Maybe it was because he was already numbed from the countless setbacks suffered while trying to find a cure!

“Although Old Master Yu no longer has hope, why not just let me give it a try? After all, what have you got to lose?” Qing Shui continued, trying to persuade the old man Yu.

“Qing Shui, enough!” Yu He interjected, worried that her grandpa would be reminded of things in the past.

“Hmm you are right, this old man shall let you try it then, let’s see your extraordinary medical techniques.” On the contrary, Yu Donghao still appeared joyful, as he agreed to Qing Shui’s request.

Yu He could only speechlessly glance at Qing Shui, while hinting at him to back off with her eyes.

Qing Shui pretended not to see the look that Yu He was shooting his way as he removed his golden needles. Without any further delay, Qing Shui got Yu Donghao to remove his robes, and pulled down his pants slightly, revealing the area of his Dantian.

“There may be some pain, please bear with it.” Qing Shui reminded, as he prepared himself.

“Bring it on, this old man here is afraid of everything, except pain. If I truly recover, I wouldn’t even mind getting slashed by a

thousand knives and pierced by a thousand blades.”

To heal Yu Donghao, firstly, Qing Shui must revitalize and heal his atrophied Dantian. Only then, would Yu Donghao be able to circulate his Qi again. The golden needles burst into flames, as Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique flew into the golden needles while Qing Shui activated the primordial flames before inserting them into various segments of old man Yu’s Dantian.

The Dantian was of paramount importance to cultivators. Not only was it the most critical portion of the human body, it was also the weakest. The first golden needle was inserted.

But Yu Donghao acted as if he was desensitized to pain. Even after the needle was inserted into his Dantian, he didn’t even let out a grunt of pain.

The 2nd needle..... all the way to the 7th needle!

A sheen of perspiration could be seen on Qing Shui’s forehead. After the 7th needle was inserted, Qing Shui had used his needle techniques to seal Yu Donghao’s sense of pain. Despite old man Yu’s refusal, Qing Shui still had done so. Because the level of pain of the 7th needle, when compared to the 1st, was akin to the light of a firefly in comparison to the burning sun.

Activating the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui infused the needles with his Qi, and slowly transferred the Qi into the Dantian of Yu Donghao.

The 7 golden needles inserted, were arranged into the 7 stars heavenly dipper formation. The needles gently vibrated, as they emitted a faint golden radiance. Under the infusion of the Ancient Strengthening Qi, the atrophied Dantian began to gradually recover its original shape.

The rate of recovery, as well as the vibration of the golden needles had a direct correlation to Qing Shui's rate of energy consumption.

Yu He worriedly stood by the side, as she wiped the perspiration of Qing Shui away with a little cloth every so often. She was slightly red in the face, because she was doing such a couple-like action with Qing Shui in front of her grandpa.

Approximately two hours later, Qing Shui's face was already bloodlessly pale. He removed the needles one by one as his body trembled involuntarily.

“Old Master Yu, try to activate your Qi. However, control your Qi so that it is only maintained in your Dantian. Do not overly exert it, I just want you to lightly experiment with it.” Qing Shui instructed. He too, desperately wanted to know the results of his first medical experiment.

Yu Donghao shut his eyes, and momentarily, snapped them opened. A look of crazed happiness could be seen in the depths of his eyes as he emotionally exclaimed, “Am I dreaming.....?”

Looking at the joyful countenance of her grandpa, tears streaked

down the face of Yu He. She speechlessly stared at Qing Shui, hoping that what she guessed was right.

Yu He felt happiness, and awestruck in her heart. Qing Shui, this little guy, actually managed to cure the atrophied Dantian of her grandpa? What on earth was he..?

AST: Chapter 99 – Extraordinary Powerful Alchemist

Qing Shui did not notice the expression reflecting in the eyes of Yu He. But that look in Yu He's eyes did not escape the notice of Yu Donghao. This moment, the joy he felt, was indescribable!

“Hahaha!” Yu Donghao couldn't control his laughter as the hand that was holding on to Qing Shui trembled with excitement.

“I didn't think that I would survive to see this day. How can I thank you? How about this, just tell me what I can do for you. As long as I can do it, I would do it!”

Yu Donghao finished his sentence as he shifted his gaze knowingly to Yu He. Yu He lowered her head abashedly, not daring to look at her grandpa nor Qing Shui.

“Old Master Yu, you are too polite. I didn't bring a celebratory gift for you to celebrate your 80th birthday. Consider this treatment a small gift of mine.” Qing Shui smiled.

“No, how can I accept this. Regardless of what requests you make, as long as it is within my power, I would definitely help you with it.”

Looking at how passionate Yu Donghao was, Qing Shui nodded. He could somewhat understand the helplessness and despair of Yu Donghao, falling from Xiantian to a cripple. Living a life worse

than death!

“Any requests?” Qing Shui glanced at Yu He. Yu He noticed that glance, as she frantically shifted her gaze away, her heart thumping rapidly.

“Anything.” Yu Donghao sincerely said.

“Although your Dantian is somewhat recovered, but if you want to regain the power you had at Xiantian, I would still need about half a year more of time. I hope that half a year later, you can dissolve the marriage between Sister Yu and her in-laws. These past few years, she has always been suffering silently.”

“Naturally. Even if you didn’t make this request, I would still do it. It doesn’t count, give me another request.” Yu Donghao exclaimed. He was swimming in joy, this was something he had yearned for countless years, always hoping but not daring to lose himself in his imaginations. Now, it seems that recovery was no longer such a far away thing compared to before.

Qing Shui shook his head. “Let’s me hold off for now, if I have need of your help in the future, I will ask for you again.”

Traces of disappointment flashed in Yu He’s eyes. Yu Donghao noticed, as he said. “Qing Shui, why don’t you consider my granddau.....”

“Grandpa, let’s take a rest first, you and Qing Shui must be tired.

Qing Shui has expended a lot of energy, let's talk about other matters later." Yu He interjected.

"Okay okay, we will talk about this in the future!" Yu Donghao sighed.

Qing Shui did not know why Yu He interjected. He was still looking at the golden needles in his hands, lost in thoughts.

"What a godly technique....." Flames rose in Qing Shui's inner heart.

"Over the next few days, I will help Elder to do more acupuncture sessions. Three days later, your Qi should be able to fully circulate. After a week, you should be able to start walking again. As long as you keep circulating your Qi, in half a year, I believe that your strength would recover to the peak of where you once were." Qing Shui exclaimed. However, he reminded Old Master Yu to take things easy, as things would backfire if he acted too hasty.

Qing Shui sighed, if his current strength was at the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he would only need a day to heal Yu Donghao. However, he was already extremely satisfied with the results of his experiments. He could actually cure something that was deemed to be incurable by the vast majority in the world of the nine continents. Not to mention waiting half a year to regain back to their original peak of power. Even if was waiting for 5 to 10 years, people would still be extremely willing to do so!

After the treatment, the banquet had already ended.

“Qing Shui, thank you!” Yu He happily exclaimed as she walked Qing Shui to the gate.

“Why are you thanking me, why have you become so courteous?” Qing Shui shrugged his shoulders as he led the horse, and walked together with Yu He onto the streets of Hundred Miles City. The afternoon sun lengthened their shadows as they walked.

“Hehe, I couldn’t imagine, that you Qing Shui, actually knew such a miraculous healing technique. Are you an alchemist?” Yu He regarded Qing Shui as an unknown, brilliant light, flickered in her eyes.

“Hehe, you will know in the future.” Qing Shui mumbled. After all, he was still far away from truly being considered as an alchemist. Alchemist all held revered positions and extraordinary status in the world of the nine continents. There were very few powers that would willingly antagonize an alchemist.

“Smelly brat, still keeping secrets from me!” Yu He pouted.

“Who are you? I will only tell my secrets to my wife!” Qing Shui joked, as his eyes twinkled.

A bashful expression appeared on Yu He face. Suddenly, Yu He felt that Qing Shui, despite being younger than her, had a dependable feeling to him. He had somehow unknowingly matured from the little guy she used to tease, to a real man that could stand in front of her, protecting her!

“Are you asking for a beating!” Yu He clenched her dainty hands into a small fist as she went to hammer Qing Shui. Qing Shui dodged the strikes of Yu He as the air around them was filled with laughter!

To wish Old Master Yu well, the Shi Clan, Ding Clan and Situ Clan all sent someone over. Those that came were of the 2nd or 3rd generation, such as Ding Lang, Ding Yuan and Ding Bao.

Qing Shui wanted very much to see Shi Qingzhuang again, but she did not appear in the list of those who came who were representing the Shi Clan for the Yu Clan’s banquet.

The people that came from the Situ Clan, was Situ Bu Fan, and a leader-like figure that had a baleful aura. Yu He said that this person was none other than the younger generation in-charge, Situ Ba. Qing Shuo frowned. He could faintly sense the barely masked killing intent emanating forth from this guy.

Qing Shui had no idea, the person’s crotch which he exploded, was none other than the son of Situ Ba! Yet, even if he knew, Qing Shui still would have exploded Situ Shang’s little bird all the same.

After setting a time with Yu He for him to come back tomorrow and employ his needle techniques to treat Yu Donghao, Qing Shui left. Now, Qing Shui wanted nothing more than a break through to the 4th level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Time flew by, and after a week, Yu Donghao really did manage to regain mobility of his legs. Although the energy channels were still

in a recovery state, through the nourishment of the Ancient Qi, as well as an abundance of spiritual herbs to support the recovery, the swift rate of recovery for Yu Donghao, was only to be expected.

Yu Donghao, someone who was crippled for 10 over years, suddenly regained mobility of his legs. This news, caused some clans to be sad while others to be joyful.

According to the rumor Yu Donghao spread, there was an amazing and extraordinarily powerful alchemist that treated him. This rumor was soon treated as the gospel truth. After all, Yu Donghao himself was the best example.

This, caused Qing Shui to laugh. Mysteriously, through nonsensical means, he had somehow become an amazing alchemist of some sorts.

Situ Ba, who had wanted earlier to take his revenge by targeting the Qing Clan, actually restrained himself because of this rumor.

Qing Shui, was very close to Yu He... Extremely close. Yu Donghao treated Qing Shui even better than his own grandson. The balance of power in Hundred Miles City was about to be disrupted. This caused Situ Ba to feel extremely restless and apprehensive.

Qing Shui ignored the happenings of the external world. The progress bar of his alchemy had already reached 10.8%. To achieve 100%, there was still quite a distance to go. A week had passed, but there was still no news regarding Wenren Wu-Shuang. Even the

Greenwolf Gang seemed to have disappeared without a trace.

Although Qing Shui admired the leader of the Greenwolf Gang, there was no guarantee that the leader would succeed.

“A week has passed, if they rode on swift horses, they should already reached the Heavenly River City. I wonder if they found Wu-Shuang yet. Although her final destination – the Xue Clan, was already known to them, there may still be unexpected occurrences.” Qing Shui clenched his fist. He was getting increasingly nervous.

AST: Chapter 100 – A Disappointed Yu He

Qing Shui quietly spaced out as he walked next to the pond to look at the half foot long back fish in the pond. In reality, two months had passed, and it was almost April. The flowers were blooming everywhere, and the appearance of the environment was thriving.

The thick pear trees in the courtyard were full of snow-white flowers, and the fragrant scent invaded Qing Shui's nose, making his mood pleasant and joyful. The bees were busily buzzing around the flowers. As Qing Shui looked at the busy bees and the busy crowd outside of the front door, his mood gradually calmed.

Men and animals are the same in that they both want to live a better life.

“You are still thinking about the Yu beauties,” said Qing Shi in a playful voice.

Qing Shui looked at the content Qing Shi and laughed, “Why didn't you go find little sister Xiang Yuan?”

Qing Shui only knew recently that Qing Shi, surprisingly, liked Xiang Yuan, a lolita with huge breasts. Qing Shui couldn't really see Qing Shi, such a secretive guy, being able to get together with Xiang Yuan, but he didn't know how their progress was going.

“What litter sister Xiang Yuan? She's already eighteen! Actually, she's a little older than us. I think it's strange that you are only

interested in mature women like Yu He... Could it be that aunty abused you..." Qing Shi said with an evil laugh.

Qing Shui, "..."

At night, Qing Shui went to Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal to gaze at the pond. He observed that the number of black fish increased a lot, and continued to increase. The biggest one was just a little longer than a foot, and probably would not change much in size, but they seemed to be getting more vigorous and nimble.

The number of turtles seemed to grow exponentially. The biggest one looked like the bottom of a washbowl, while the smallest one wasn't even as big as a matchbox. If it was not careful, it would become food for the black fish.

Now the turtles and the black fish seemed to have a grudge against each other. Both sides were trying to hunt the other side's offspring, but the numbers keep increasing exponentially despite this situation. Originally, there were only 200 turtles, but now there were at least a thousand. As for the black fish, their number was already too big to count, but there should be tens of thousands. The entire pond looked like it was filled with black fish.

"This is great, now Yu He Inn can add turtle soup to the menu!" Qing Shui looked at the big group of turtles, and reminisced about when he drank turtle soup with Shi Qingzhuang. This made him suddenly gain a renewed appetite. During this time Qing Shui was eating a sufficient amount, but he still wanted to eat more.

Although he could only reach the forty-eighth cycle of the Ancient Strengthening Technique when he cultivated, Qing Shui did not relax, and continued to cultivate every day. Although the total force of the ancient technique did not increase, there was a distinct improvement in its purity.

He already had a little success with his swordsmanship, and could use it with greater ease. The quick progress in his swordsmanship was due to the benefits of Solitary Rapid Fist, and he experienced a feeling as if it were from heaven when he cultivated it. Qing shui knew that once he experienced this feeling, he was having success with this form of sword skill.

As for alchemy, Qing Shui spent the most time refining medicine every day. Qing Shui already planted plenty of herbs all throughout the spatial realm. Except for a few herbs that were meant to mature over a thousand years, he increased the maturity of the other herbs by himself.

Because Qing Shui had seen the power of the Primordial Needles, he would take some time to review it. He was already skilled in his Ancient Flames of Yin-Yang due to his constant practice at refining herbs.

After he had eaten two Agility-Enhancing Fruits, his Ghostly Steps had changed into the Free Spirit Steps. There was an enhancement in both the speed and agility; he even felt improvement in his strength, making his entire body feel as if it were filled with endless strength.

About the Agility-Enhancing Fruit, Qing Shui contemplated

about the six that he still had. “These don’t really help me at the moment, so I can give my mother two. I can also give Wenren Wu-Shuang two to help her enhance her strength.”

“For the last two that are remaining, should I give both of them to Yu He, both of them to Yu Donghao, or give one to each?” Qing Shui sighed. There was still too little, and it was not enough for everyone.

Now Qing Shui looked at the many Golden Sore Ointments that he had produced with his practice in alchemy, but he still didn’t know how well this medicine worked. Qing Shui really wanted to try it himself, but dismissed the idea after thinking about how he had to bleed himself. He would find another chance.

Qing Shui awoke the next day and sat cross-legged facing the sun; then he cultivated for forty eight cycles of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, and walked to his mother’s room.

Qing Shui usually woke up quite early to prepare breakfast as a light morning exercise. Now he would eat either black fish or turtle soup at every meal because he found that regular consumption of them could improve his physique.

Qing Shui closed the door, and took out two Agility-Enhancing Fruits.

“Clear Wind Fruit? Did that ancient old man give this to you too?”

With a forced smile, Qing Shui nodded, “I don’t even need to explain this time. That ancient old man really helped me out a lot!”

Qing Yi took the Agility-Enhancing Fruit with astonishment and looked at Qing Shui, then asked with certainty, “You already ate two? Walk around at your highest speed.”

At a loss, Qing Shui could only walk around like a blur using his fastest speed.

Now Qing Yi accepted the two Agility-Enhancing Fruits from Qing Shui with a smile. However, she didn’t ask too many questions. Last time Qing Shui gave Qing Yi eight Energy-Enhancing Fruits, while this time there were only two, but Qing Yi still didn’t ask anything!

After he ate breakfast, Qing Shui decided to start refining herbs at the Qing residence since he was bored. He used fire dirt, the cheapest ingredient, because he only needed the experience.

“Why is the failure rate so high when I’m not using the primordial flames?” Qing Shui failed five times successively. His cauldron had even exploded on the last time.

As he looked at the wreckage that had been his alchemy cauldron, he realized that the people who sell these cauldrons were actually very shady. The cost of a cauldron was not a light financial burden for beginner alchemists; he again lamented at how alchemy was a profession that burned money. With the rise of every alchemist comes a mountain of gold that was spent in the process.

After witnessing his situation, Qing Shui decided to not practice anymore. After all, he did not really care much about the time. Since he had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he had about ten times more time than other people.

He visited the Hundred Medicinal Gardens and stealthily watered the herbs with the pond water from the spatial realm. Now Qing Shui was responsible for taking care of the entire Hundred Medicinal Gardens because Qing Shui said that the ancient old man was also his master, and had taught him a few methods for tending medicinal plants. During this time, the herbs in the Hundred Medicinal Garden suddenly improved in both the quality and appearance, so Qing Shui was basically given the responsibility of taking care of the Hundred Medicinal Gardens.

Maybe it was because Yu Donghao often ate the black fish from the spatial realm, but his body also recovered quicker than expected. Many others were also coming to the same conclusion. Everyone who ate the black fish from the Yu He Inn, especially the ones who ate the dish often, all found their physiques to have improved by a lot. This was another reason the Yu He Inn was becoming even more famous.

However, there had been a reduction in people with bad intentions towards the Yu He Inn because of Yu Donghao's unexpected recovery. After all, the Yu clan was a clan that used to have a Xiantian cultivator.

Even the descendents of the Yu clan, especially the leader of the Yu clan, started to regain their confidence from ten years ago.

Many of the hedonistic sons from the Yu clan started causing trouble on the streets, or flirted with women without a worry.

Now they had a backup again. These hedonistic sons, especially the incompetent ones, could not act in such a troublesome manner without a power to back them up.

Before, the most arrogant clans in Hundred Miles City were the Situ clan and the Xiang clan. The Situ clan had the most people at the peak of Houtian, and an alchemist Lei who was a step away from Xiantian. The Xiang clan had the first person named Xian Lang in three generations. There was a rule in Hundred Mile City: In a fight within three generations, the eldest one could not attack, but when one of the four clans had a Xiantian, these kinds of rules would lose their purpose since their true strength was superior.

All of this did not have much influence on Qing shui's daily life. Qing Shui's vision was not limited to just Hundred Miles city; he looked towards the vast sky outside. Once his true strength broke through the fourth level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he would travel around the nine continents. He would visit the most famous and beautiful places around the nine continents, meet fighting techniques from the outside world, and the chase after the most remarkable women to experience the culture around the world.

However, he could only concoct Golden Sore Ointment, and he was still a long way from breaking the fourth level. However, Qing Shui still felt content with his current life. He cultivated, then spent half the day wandering around. Sometimes, he would shop for rare treasures with Qing Shi and Qing Shan. The only thing

that would put Qing Shui in a bad mood was when other youngsters would try to fight him.

Ever since his arrival, Qing Shui continuously won against all of the more famous youths, so now one dared to challenge Qing Shui anymore.

After his breakfast, Qing Shui went outside. Not after long, he “coincidentally” met Yu He. Qing Shui’s mood was much more pleasant after seeing Yu He, a mature beauty.

“You are glowing, and your smile is like a flower. Why are you so happy?” Qing Shui smiled and asked Yu He.

After hearing Qing Shui’s compliments, Yu He’s eyes were smiling, and she reached out her hand to pinch Qing Shui’s handsome cheeks. “I’m free. When my husband’s family heard about my grandfather’s recovery, they took the initiative to explain this to me!”

“Congratulations. You could find another ideal husband in the future. Remember to invite me to your wedding.” Qing Shui said seriously and smiled genuinely.

Yu He stared blankly for a moment then said happily, “Yes, of course!”

Qing Shui did not see the disappointment behind the happiness in Yu He’s eyes. It felt as if a wound was opened by a knife. Yu He

quickly exchanged a few pleasantries with Qing Shui, and turned around to leave after saying she had “something else to take care of.”

Yu He turned around and left. The moment she took a step away, tears fell uncontrollably. “Why do I still hope to be with him when I clearly know it’s impossible? Why does my heart still ache when I already know the outcome? He is like a dragon hibernating on the ground; he is destined to fly away into the sky one day.”

Yu He didn’t know when she had found her heart full of Qing Shui’s shadow. Was it when he kissed her? Or was it when he took advantage of her and complimented her with his sweet nothings? Or perhaps was it when he helped her grandfather regain his strength?

Yu He felt perplexed. Now, she only knew that she would have an unforgettable feeling for Qing Shui. When he seriously said, “You should find another ideal husband in the future. Remember to invite me to your wedding,” it was as if she could hear her heart breaking, and feel the pain of her heart being torn apart.

AST: Chapter 101 – A Quiet Beauty

Qing Shui didn't notice Yu He's odd behavior. If he had not had sex with Shi Qingzhuang then he would've continued flirting with Yu He and asking her to marry him.

However, right now, all of Qing Shui worries were placed on how to save Wenren Wu-Shuang, and the problem with Shi Qingzhuang. In his confusion, he had subconsciously abandoned Yu He. He genuinely congratulated Yu He to find someone else she loved soon.

Qing Shui didn't know Yu He had already changed quite a bit. She had feelings for Qing Shui at the very least, and felt possessive of him in her heart at the most.

Qing Shui was a simple person. The idea of monogamous marriages from the previous world had inscribed itself deeply into his spirit. Additionally, Shi Qingzhuang was his first woman; there were feelings that made him feel inseparable from her. It's not like he hadn't thought of having multiple wives, or owning a harem while possessing the power to control the world. He would think about lewd things like that every once in awhile. In fact, Qing Shui still doesn't believe that a woman as mature as Yu He would like him, at least not right now.

He thought about Yu He, Shi Qingzhuang, and Wenren Wu-Shuang. He would be satisfied to be able to have any one of them. If he didn't feel satisfied, then he wouldn't be considered to be living in reality; instead he would be living in a nonsensical dream. Though he had a little connection with Shi Qingzhuang, he still

had a long way to go before he could completely own her.

If you don't break it off when you need to, there will definite be consequences. He still hadn't fulfilled the requirements to be half-hearted towards any one woman. This was a decision that took Qing Shui a long time to decide.

More than once, Qing Shui wanted to go to the Shi Clan to find Shi Qingzhuang. He even had ideas of asking for her hand in marriage at her doorstep, but Shi Qing Zhuang was the fiancée of Situ Bufan. This wasn't the previous world. The views that the people of the nine continents had on this issue always made Qing Shui a little gloomy. If a woman was someone else's fiancée or wife, having another man put their hands on them would be considered immoral.

Qing Shui could be immoral, but he didn't have the chance. He was scared Shi Qingzhuang wouldn't be able to handle the pressure, and that it would hurt her. Also, he wasn't certain whether she actually had feelings for him or not.

There was a way, but unfortunately, Qing Shui was unable to do that right now.

For example, if a Xiantian cultivator likes Shi Qingzhuang, he can honorably compete with Situ Bufan for Shi Qingzhuang. As long as Shi Qingzhuang selects this Xiantian, then Situ Bufan could only give up. The prerequisite for this is that the two of them can only be fiancées. If she's his wife, then the woman's name would be tarnished!

“If I could reach Xiantian, Shi Qingzhuang would definitely choose me. We would definitely be very happy together. “ Qing Shui thought while walking with a grin on his face.

“Ouch!” Qing Shui felt that he bumped into something. He suddenly heard someone’s painful cries and awoke from his fantasies.

“Hey, are you ok?”

The one who was bumped to the ground was actually someone Qing Shui had met before. It was Ding Bao. That delicate little woman! Qing Shui, with a forced smile, reached out his hand to lift up Ding Bao, who was sitting on the floor.

“You, I saw you chuckling stupidly to yourself from afar. I was making sure that you could actually see the road, so I stood completely still. I didn’t think that you would still actually bump into me!” Ding Bao crinkled her delicate and small face, and rubbed her well rounded chest with one hand while rubbing her plump butt that she hurt with her other hand while sitting on the ground.

Her cute yet seductive actions made Qing Shui once again check out her ample and exquisite body. He had no choice but to approve that she was a beautiful little woman with assets. He realized that he bumped into her chests. No wonder it felt soft. They were relatively bouncy.

“I had thought it was me who was careless, but it was actually you, this little girl who purposely doesn’t move and hits yourself!” Qing Shui jokingly said while reaching his hand to rub Ding Bao’s head. After he put out his hand, he realized that it wasn’t appropriate, and shrunk back his hand in embarrassment.

Qing Shui’s age from his past life and his current life added would be around early thirties, after taking out the four years without memories of his previous experiences. Therefore, Qing Shui’s mental age is around the same as Yu He’s. Although Qing Shui liked mature women, it was most likely due to his mental age.

“Pfft, you are not even as old as me yet, and you call me a little girl? Qing Shi said that your age and his age were the same. However, you actually look like you’re in your twenties.” Ding Bao said while pouting her lips and giggling.

“Okay, that’s enough. Why are you here? It wasn’t just to wait for me right?” Qing Shui jokingly said.

“In your dreams! Who would wait just for you. I was just curious. Watching you all dazed as though you just heard some overwhelming news. Let’s see if this sister can help you out. After all, we are acquaintances.” Ding Bao blinked with her crystal-like eyes. Her eyes seemed especially large on her small face. Very spiritual!

Qing Shui knew that he couldn’t argue against the wordplay that girls of her age often used. With a forced smile, he shook his head. “I still have things to do. I won’t chat with this little girl anymore. Let’s talk next time!”

Seeing that Qing Shui wasn't paying attention to her, she pouted her lips and stomped her feet a couple times. She was the proud lady of the Ding Clan, and was doted on and pampered throughout her entire life. She was good looking and cute. People of her age either were either fond of her, or were eagerly attentive of her. But they weren't up to par with her expectations since they were only second class people. She never would have thought it possible for this youngster to dump her first.

“Stupid Qing Shui. Stupid thing. See how I will make you pay me back for this in the future...”

Qing Shui didn't know that someone was cursing him behind his back. He didn't want to interact with a pampered girl from such a prominent family. Ding Bao had just told him that he wasn't even as old as her yet, so Qing Shui knew that it was not appropriate for him to interact too much with someone like her.

Qing Shui didn't like pampered girls. In addition, he didn't even like lolis. However, Qing Shui didn't know that he had already been remembered by this high quality loli.

Qing Shui somehow managed to walk into the Firecloud Blacksmith Store, and just in time. His cauldron for alchemy was completely destroyed, so he decided to buy another one, which was convenient for him.

He stepped inside. Qing Shui noticed that there weren't too many people, but that woman was inside. For a split second, Qing Shui

felt sort of happy.

It's as though she was telepathic. When Qing Shui's eyes settled on the woman, she suddenly lifted her head and saw Qing Shui. Her clean smile made Qing Shui's heart feel at peace.

“What a coincidence. We meet again!” The girl's magnetic voice traveled to him. Qing Shui's heart felt a bit numb, which was very comfortable. He melancholically sighed about the woman's alluring quality.

“Ha ha. This isn't a coincidence. I didn't see you last time I came to the store!” Qing Shui said with a smile!

“Really? What do you want today?” The woman smiled as she walked to Qing Shui's side. Her beautiful eyes were filled with vigor, and glimmered while looking at Qing Shui!

She was a quiet woman. She had an elegant posture, and her expression made Qing Shui feel a bit dazzled and stunned. She was a pure yet flirty and stunning woman.

AST: Chapter 102 – Huoyun Liu-Li's Gold Flint Iron Cauldron

She was a quiet woman. Her graceful figure and expression made Qing Shui feel a little dazzled and stunned. She was a pure but flirty and stunning woman.

Although his time in Hundred Miles City was short, Qing Shui had met many women. The one woman who was better than this one would only be Wenren Wu-Shuang. Compared to Shi Qingzhuang and Yu He, the three of them were like plum blossoms, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemums—they were all beautiful in different ways.

“I want a concoction cauldron!”

“You, come over here.” The woman glanced at Qing Shui oddly. She looked at him quickly and was surprised, then she politely smiled and turned around to walk towards the warehouse on the north side.

Qing Shui was flabbergasted because the room that she led him to was different from the room that the middle-aged, simple-looking uncle led him to. However, Qing Shui didn't bother to say anything, and took the time to boldly look at the woman's exquisite and graceful figure.

This time, they did not enter any room in the north side, but instead took a corridor from the north and exited the hall. They entered the courtyard at the interior. The courtyard wasn't wide;

it wasn't even as big as the hall, with rooms everywhere. The woman led Qing Shui and opened the door of a shabby wing on the west side.

When he entered, Qing Shui saw that this was an abandoned warehouse with a slight smell of mold on the inside. There were cobwebs everywhere, and there were many abandoned objects sprawled on the floor. The warehouse was extremely ragged, and there was a thick layer of dust on everything.

Qing Shui frowned. Why did she take me here? "Does she intend to have an affair with me? But this place is too run down!" Qing Shui starting thinking dirty thoughts, but they were only thoughts.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose and watched the woman use an iron sword get rid of the cobwebs. Her swaying body was still beautiful. She was graceful, and her expression was natural even when she was doing something like getting rid of cobwebs.

The woman nimbly got rid of the spider webs without getting a fleck of dust on herself, and then walked towards a pile of junk to dig up a pitch black... concoction cauldron!

She then walked out and handed it to Qing Shui. "Although the appearance of this concoction cauldron is not much, it is a lot better than the ones sold outside. It's been here collecting dust for a long time. I feel that we have an affinity with each other, so I will give it to you as a present. I hope you can become an alchemist soon!"

Qing Shui took this pitch-black and unremarkable concoction cauldron; the moment he touched it, he felt warmth on his hands. “Hmm? Could this be made of Gold Flint Iron?”

Although Qing Shui could not be sure, he was pretty close. Qing Shui saw a record of Gold Flint in Treasure Notes. In ancient times, things that were used to make fire were called flint. There were different kinds like Gold Flint, or Wood Flint.

Gold Flint was used to make fire from the sun, and Gold Flint iron was extremely precious. Not only was it scarce, but it was also very versatile. One of the ways its power could be seen the best, was by using Gold Flint iron to make concoction cauldron. The rate of a successful refining process is doubled, and it wouldn't explode. Gold Flint Iron Cauldron was listed on the concoction cauldron ranking in the continents, which showed just how precious it was.

“Do you know the material of this concoction cauldron?” Qing Shui looked at the woman, and decided that her action was definitely intentional, so he did not want to act confused. After all, she could just sell another one of the cauldron that the middle-aged man sold him last time.

“Looks like you have good taste. The best sword is only bestowed upon a hero. This is the Gold Flint Iron Cauldron that alchemists yearn for in their dreams.” The woman's beautiful eyes flashed a moving brilliance.

“I don’t want it. It’s too precious. We have only met twice up until now, and we don’t even know each other’s’ names. This is a priceless good. If you wanted to give it away, you should give it to an alchemist that is above Xiantian. It would be much more appropriate than giving it to an apprentice like me.” Qing Shui handed the Gold Flint Iron Cauldron back to the woman.

“I didn’t see that you are such a sincere man, which makes my decision even more correct. Just pretend my cauldron to be an investment. Don’t forget me when you become a mighty alchemist in the future.” The woman chuckled, and led the way out of this abandoned warehouse.

Qing Shui walked out, holding the cauldron with a forced smile. It was bogus to say that he did not want the cauldron. Just the double success rate was enough to make many alchemists crazy for it, but positive pellets refined in the cauldron will also have enhanced quality.

“Could it be that you have dirty thoughts about me?” Qing Shui pondered and asked the woman.

“Pfft, you are a little small!” The woman rolled her eyes charmingly.

“No, I’m not small. Definitely not small. I’m not small anywhere!” Qing Shui straightened his body.”

The woman blushed and looked at Qing Shui’s delicate, ageless, and charming face. His eyes were especially beautiful; they were

profound, but clear. He was a little taller than her, and his slender figure had a refined air compared to other beastly muscular men. He was better in that his tall and straight figure gave off a gentle and natural feeling.

“Don’t be such a rascal! You can’t treat me rudely.” The woman scolded Qing Shui.

“Are you really giving it to me as a present?” Qing Shui asked the woman when they arrived at the doorstep of Firecloud Blacksmith Store.

“This is called an investment. Don’t forget me when you become a mighty alchemist in the future!” The woman said with a light laugh.

“My name is Qing Shui. What’s your name?”

“Hehe, Huoyun Liu-Li!”

Qing Shui left with the Gold Flint Iron Cauldron. He couldn’t believe Yunhuo Liu-Li’s vision to be so sharp. Could she really see that he could be an alchemist in the future?

“She likes me? This is bullshit!”

“Is it affinity?” Qing Shui felt that this was the only explanation. Everything that did not have an explanation could be explained with fate or affinity.

In the blink of an eye, another week passed. Qing Shui lived each day with a regular schedule. Maybe it was because of the Gold Flint Iron Cauldron, not only was the amount of Golden Sore Ointment concocted doubled, but the purity was also enhanced. The white powder had a little golden shine to it.

This was not the main improvement for Qing Shui right now. The thing that made Qing Shui the happiest was that the experience he earned grew two fold ever since he started using the Gold Flint Iron Cauldron. Before, he could only accumulate a hundred and eighty experience points a week, but now, he could accumulate around four hundred. Qing Shui felt happy when he looked at his almost six hundred experience points. If he kept going like this, he would be able to concoct the Small Revitalizing Pellet in a week.

Qing Shui felt very emotional!

However, when he thought about how he still hadn't heard any news from Wenren Wu-Shuang, Qing Shui immediately felt anxiety in his heart. It had already been two weeks. There was only a week left. If she did not come back this week, or did not find an antidote, the poison would take over her!

AST: Chapter 103 – Parents Always Worry About Their Children

There had been no news from the Greenwolf Gang. Qing Shui hadn't had high hopes for them in the first place, but Wenren Wu-Gou also said that she would tell Wenren Wu-Shuang to hurry back, and to also assert the vital concern. Therefore, Qing Shui had the highest hope in Wenren Wu-Shuang returning by herself. After all, she was a Xiantian-level cultivator!

Qing Shui really wanted to leave for Heavenly River City this instant, but he was scared that he might miss Wenren Wu-Shuang if she was on her way back. Therefore, he could only clench his teeth and console himself to push through the wait little by little!

Qing Shui felt that he was restricted by this region. He envied those Beast Tamers who had demonic beasts, especially those who had flying pets that could carry people. If he had a flying beast that could carry people, a round trip to Heavenly River City would only take a day.

The only problem was that even among Xiantian-level Beast Tamers, there were only a few who owned flying beasts. The reason was that only Xiantian-level flying beasts were intelligent enough to carry people, especially for long distance trips. After all, one wouldn't be able to experience the praiseworthy benefits of a flying beast on short distance trips. Demonic beasts below Xiantian-level could not fly for a long distance because they did not have a demonic core, so very few Beast Tamers would take the time to tame flying beasts below Xiantian-level.

Unfortunately, for beasts that travel on land, even if they did not sleep and ran as fast as they could, it would still take them a week to arrive. A round trip would take half a month!

Qing Shui went to deliver the black fish to Yu He Inn. This time, he delivered an amount that could last a month, which made Yu He surprised since Qing Shui usually only delivered an amount that was enough for only a week.

“What happened? Are you going on a long trip?”

Qing Shui’s heart warmed when he saw Yu He’s concerned expression. “I’m not sure. I’m scared that I might leave suddenly, so I’ll help you prepare first.”

“If you need any help, you have to find me.”

“I will!” Qing Shui nodded with a smile.

When Qing Shui went to the Night Fragrance Court and saw Wenren Wu-Gou with a worried frown, Qing Shui knew that she might have not been able to contact Wenren Wu-Shuang.

He originally placed most of his hope on Wenren Wu-Gou, but he didn’t think that he would be in this plight. Qing Shui really felt that he was tiny. In this vast world, traveling became a huge problem.

Beast Tamers, like Alchemists, really were very rewarding

professions, especially Beast Tamers who own Xiantian-level flying beasts. They are Xiantian-level masters in the first place; plus they own the formidable strength of the flying beasts.

Qing Shui remembered the 3rd Grade Desolate Beast White-Headed Inky Jade Condor that he killed. Unfortunately, there was no demonic core. If it was a Xiantian-level Demonic Beast White-Headed Inky Jade Condor with a demonic core, Qing Shui probably would have lost his life.

The life of a Beast Tamer that could reach Xiantian-level was very hard. Demonic beasts that had lower strength didn't necessarily mean that they were easier to tame. It was not easy to tame Ferocious Beasts and Desolate Beasts below Xiantian-level Demonic Beasts. It would take a long time to tame them because their lower intelligence meant that the success rate was lower. In addition, there were a lot more restrictions on the compatibility.

Although Xiantian-level Demonic Beasts were stronger, they also had higher intelligence. Therefore, if you were strong enough, the difficulty of taming a Xiantian-level Demonic Beast or a wild beast was about the same.

“There are no easy professions!” Qing Shui felt helpless.

Qing Shui had so many Assisting Skills, but there were no Divination nor Aviation Talismans. If he had an Aviation Talisman that could take him to Heavenly River City in a flash, then that would be great!

“If only I had a Xiantian-level flying bison, I wouldn’t be fretting like this.” Qing Shui rubbed his pounding head and sighed. (Bison will be explained later)

The herbs in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, especially the ones that were planted in the beginning, were already fifty years in age. Both the purity and the effect were better in comparison to normal herbs that were of fifty years in age in reality. The herbs had reached their maximum height, and they would only grow more thick and more moist, deepening in their purity, and increasing their vitality! They would also grow more vigorously, and grow more stalks, which changed with their age!

Qing Shui never thought that the popular mysteriously powerful Alchemist from the rumors was actually himself. This made him tear up in laughter. He was a trainee Alchemist who could not refine any real medicine, at least not yet, but the rumors blew him up to a mysteriously powerful Alchemist!

Good news never left the door, but bad news traveled thousands of miles. These kinds of rumors traveled especially quickly. There were already many people, even those who traveled here from outside the city, who were trying to inquire about how to find this mysteriously powerful Alchemist.

Furthermore, many clans and sects were giving out high prices to attract him. This made Qing Shui sigh about how Alchemists are really fucking popular!

An event happened before this, which is when Yu Donghao went to the Qing Clan Medical Store to give his thanks. This event not

only made the Qing Clan stupefied, but also made outside rumors more excessive. There were even rumors of a marriage between the Qing Clan and the Yu Clan. Thank goodness no one knew the purpose for Yu Donghao's visit to the Qing Clan Medical Store.

When Qing Hu learned about how Qing Shui cured Yu Donghao, he reported the news to Qing Luo that very night. The Qing Clan, especially Qing Yi, were immersed in happiness.

“So the ancient old man who always gave things to darling Qing Shui and taught Qing Shui skills is an alchemist, a master whose skill is out of this world.” Qing Shui's fictitious ancient old man was already deeply embedded in Qing Yi's heart.

Helplessly, Qing Shui could only admit it with a nod...

The news of how the Yu Clan, especially Yu Donghao himself, going to the Qing clan made the status of the Qing Clan rise sharply. The Qing clan was not a native clan in Hundred Miles City, so even if their business was popular, they could only be merchants. Furthermore, their business was not hugely popular and definitely paled in comparison to the native merchants in Hundred Miles City. This was another reason Situ Ba was ready to pick a fight with the Qing Clan.

However, it was different now. Who is Yu Donghao? The master of the Yu Clan, who was now a Xiantian-level master again. He was the peak presence in Hundred Miles City.

“Shang'er, your dad would not let your sacrifice go to waste. You

just rest up and recuperate!” Situ Ba said to the pale youth lying on the bed.

“I want to mince that son of a bitch, father. What’s the point of me living like this?” The deathly pale youth said with despair.

“Shang’er, your damaged body can be healed. You can restore the damage to your body when your cultivation reaches Martial King. Just work hard and cultivate, Shang’er. As long as you reach the peak of Martial King, these small injuries could be easily healed.” In order to ignite Situ Shang’s will to live, Situ Ba shifted the ability of a Martial Emperor to the peak of Martial King.

Situ Shang shook his head and laughed, “Your son knows his own ability. Don’t even talk about peak Martial King. I don’t even have hope for Xiantian-level. If it was only Xiantian-level, I would attempt it.” Situ Shang’s thought of suicide already budded.

“Don’t’ feel disheartened, there are a few other methods. For example, an Emperor Grade Great Revitalizing Pellet could cure you. There is also the wild ‘Heavenly Sun Fruit’ that can regenerate your crippled lower half. It is also said that there are other benefits. Sleeping with a hundred woman in one night wouldn’t even be a problem!” In order to make Situ Shang continue to live, Situ Ba even put down the reserved quality of a father.

Only the parents always worry about their children!

“These things that you said might be true, but they are all

hopeless. Even with all the wealth of the Situ Clan, we would not be able to buy an Emperor Grade Revitalizing Pellet. As for the Heavenly Sun Fruit, it was only recorded in history books. Father, your child knows your wishes; it is me who has failed to live up to your expectations.”

Situ Shang’s words even caused a wave of grief for Situa Ba, a man made of iron. As parents, especially as an iron man like Situ Ba, he only hoped that his children would grow into a happy and healthy adults under his wings and not suffer any harm, but he could not even achieve this. He was the magnificent master of the clan, but his superior status was like a rope that tied up his hands and feet.

“Shang’er, there is another more feasible plan. Hurry up and improve your strength. If you can reach Xiantian-level, you can serve for the Medicine King Aristocratic Family for ten years. They would satisfy one wish for you after that. Using the Medicine King Aristocratic Family’s ability to cure your injury will be a piece of cake.” Situ Ba grievously said to his hopeless son.

Situ Shang was silent. Maybe he matured through this incident. He nodded towards Situ Ba!

“Shang’er, as a man, you should not give up your life this easily. As long as you can improve your strength, anything is possible!” Situ Ba deeply sighed.

“I will listen to you, father!”

AST: Chapter 104 – Recovery (1)

Time flowed by quickly, and soon, three days had passed. Just as Qing Shui had decided to go to Heavenly River City, who would have thought that members of the Greenwolf gang actually returned in a two horse carriage cloaked with curtains, rushing all the way back to the Qing Clan Medical Store looking for him.

Qing Shui felt extremely astonished when he came out. The 10+ members of the Greenwolf Gang all had injuries over their bodies, and looked extremely fatigued.

“Young Master, Miss Wushuang isn’t doing too well!”

Qing Shui frantically walked towards the carriage which the member of the Greenwolf Gang pointed to. Upon pulling away the curtains, Qing Shui could see the lovely visage that had haunted his dreams every night, quietly lying there. Her countenance was bloodlessly pale as her eyes were tightly shut. Those long eyelashes of her’s were still as beautiful as before, but seeing Wenren Wushuang in this condition, Qing Shui felt as if there were needles stabbing right into his heart.

Activating his Heavenly Vision Technique, Qing Shui realized that the poison in Wu-Shuang was acting up again. The antidote she had ingested had a special effect. It would enable the person who consumed it to fall in a deep sleep. In that case, the rate of poison activation, would also be slowed immensely.

Withdrawing another 500 taels of silver in addition some Golden

Sore Ointment, he gave it over to the leader as he stated, “Bring the brothers to an inn to have a good meal , and the medical expenses are all on me. Go enjoy yourselves tonight, and come back to look for me tomorrow.”

The youth hesitated, before accepting the money and leading the rest of the gang members away. Qing Shui led the horse of Wenren Wu-Shuang towards the Qing Clan Medical Store.

Qing Shui then carried Wu-Shuang down from the carriage. This was the first time he had hugged Wenren Wu-Shuang, and not to mention in such a special circumstance. Her body was very soft and light, and her skin was silky smooth. Even through her robes, one could feel her finely-toned muscles.

A whiff of light fragrance akin to that of orchids, drifted over and assaulted the nostrils of Qing Shui. Looking at that enchanting visage of Wu-Shuang, Qing Shui couldn't help but to feel a reaction. This woman, her name also stood for unparalleled (Wu-Shuang), so beautiful that she could topple empires!

“Qing Shui... Qing Shi dumbly stared at Qing Shui, and at the unconscious Wenren Wu-Shuang in his embrace.

Qing Shui could only bitterly smile, and carried Wenren Wu-Shuang away quickly, trying to avoid the stares of his other family members.

Placing Wenren Wu-Shuang on his bed, and at this moment, Qing Shi frantically rushed into his room, asking, “Qing Shui, who

is this beauty? She's as beautiful as an immortal.”

“.....” Is he trying to cockblock me?

“A friend who has been poisoned, so I'm going help her to detoxify the poison. Do not let anyone enter.” Qing Shui bitterly smiled as he politely chased Qing Shi out.

Locking the door securely once Qing Shi departed, Qing Shui slowly walked to the bedside as he regarded the sleeping Wenren Wu-Shuang.

Earlier when he activated his Heavenly Vision Technique, he saw that with the exception of her heart, the poison had already spread to the rest of her body. Qing Shui wasn't sure if Wu-Shuang had consumed the Five Dragon Pellet, but he had to do something to save her now.

The current Qing Shui, was in a dilemma. He didn't know if he should be happy or sad. To use his needle technique on Wenren Wu-Shuang, he would have to disrobe her...

“Fuck it, stop being wishy-washy and just do it!”

Qing Shui started by removing her belt, his hand was careful not stray away to other areas of her body. Involuntarily, his heartbeat started to quicken, as he forced himself to focus on the task at hand.

Qing Shui disrobed almost all the clothing on Wenren Wu-Shuang, only leaving behind her undergarments. Gulping several times, a sheen of perspiration could be seen on his forehead. This was taking more willpower than he had anticipated. Closing his eyes and taking many deep breaths, he steeled himself and proceeded to remove the remaining pieces of undergarments.

Inspecting Wenren Wu-Shuang's naked body almost caused him to have a nosebleed. What was strange was that, there was no indications of other wounds on her body. White as snow, like jade, and with skin as smooth and milky as cream. Qing Shui spent quite some time admiring the curves of her body, especially her soft mounds of snow-white breasts. What an enchanting vision, capable of stirring the soul of any man.

“.....” Qing Shui's hand involuntarily extended, stopping just a few inches before the twin peaks of Wenren Wu-Shuang. Oh, how he wanted to feel the sensation of grabbing them.

Qing Shui didn't think of himself as a hypocrite. However, sometimes emotions control the mind before the consciousness can even kick in. Giving in to his desire unconsciously, he squeezed her breasts a couple of times before shifting his gaze down to the place of pleasure between her thighs.

“I must not.....” Thoughts of Shi Qingzhuang and Yu He filled his head as he forcibly wrenched his gaze away. It was only after many moments later before he recollected himself.

Withdrawing his golden needles, Qing Shui inserted them into the three acupoints on her chest. Qi Men, Re Yue and Tianchi! [1]

After which, Qing Shui withdrew another three needles, and inserted them on the acupoints around Wu-Shuang's abdomen area and both her thighs.

Using another six needles, Qing Shui began sealing and directing the path of the energy flow, imbuing them with his primordial flames, forcing the poison out bit by bit.

The six needles were trembling violently, as a pinkish Qi with a fragrant smell was released into the air.

“What a powerful poison, to think that even with the primordial flames, I couldn't force it all out.” The helpless Qing Shui gazed at one of the needles inserted on her inner thigh, at the Yin Lian acupoint, near her place of pleasure. [2]

The needle at the Yin Lian acupoint, was trembling so fiercely that Qing Shui decided to voluntarily pull it out himself. Retracting the golden needle, a trace of pink-colored blood could be seen leaking out from the wound. What in the world was this poison?

Without much of a choice, Qing Shui could only helplessly seal the remaining poison into the lower part of Wu-Shuang's body. Forcing the remaining poison to her lower body, Qing Shui once again inserted six needles in various acupoint locations to seal the poison, and prevent it from spreading further. At the very least, now, her life wouldn't be in danger.

But who could have guessed that at this moment, Wenren Wu-

Shuang actually opened her eyes!

AST: Chapter 105 – Recovery (2)

But who could have guessed that at this moment, Wenren Wu-Shuang actually opened her eyes!

Wenren Wu-Shuang didn't panic upon seeing that her body was naked. She calmly regarded Qing Shui, and it was at this exact moment that Qing Shui inserted the final two needles into the soles of her feet. Although she knew that Qing Shui was helping her to detoxify the poison, she couldn't help but feel slightly angered upon noticing that three needles were inserted in her chest area.

The golden needles on her body were trembling violently, as the poison was forced out bit by bit. The eyes of Wenren Wu-Shuang were glazed over, and yet, the misty look in her eyes only further accentuated her charm.

Two hours later, Qing Shui removed all the needles on Wu-Shuang's body and put on her clothes for her. His hands trembled slightly as he put on the undergarments, but all in all, he managed to complete the task without losing his cool. This was the 2nd time in his life that he was putting on clothes for a woman, but who asked Wenren Wu-Shuang to be in such a state, totally devoid of strength.

After Qing Shui finished putting on her clothes, the pale white countenance of Wenren Wu-Shuang's face turned into a brilliant red. Refusing to look Qing Shui in the eyes, Wu-Shuang kept dodging his gaze.

Tidying her clothes, and putting on a blanket for her, Qing Shui stated, “Rest first, I will go look for something for you to eat.”

Unlocking his door as he went out, Qing Shui realized that everyone was already back in the Qing Clan Medical Store. It was already evening time, and as they saw Qing Shui coming out, they immediately started bombarding him with a multitude of questions.

“Is she cured?”

“Qing Shui, who’s that celestial babe?”

“Qing Shui did the two of you.....?”

Rolling his eyes, Qing Shui hurriedly explained, “The poison is cured, but her body is still weak. Okay, no more random questions, let me explain.” Qing Shui, upon getting bombarded by the questions, could only smile wryly as he decided to tell his family something about Wu-Shuang.

...

“What? She’s a Xiantian cultivator? Is she over 100 years old?” Yuan Ying, the wife of Qing Shui’s uncle, inquired with awe.

“Erm, about 21 to 22 I guess.” Qing Shui scratched his nose as he explained.

Everyone in the house was thunderstruck upon hearing that. Wasn't that too crazy? A young girl of about 20 years of age actually reached the Xiantian realm? Not only that, she was acquainted with Qing Shui?

But how old was Qing Shui, what was he doing with a girl 5-6 years older than him in that room? Qing Yi couldn't help worrying, "Was the motherly love I gave him insufficient.....?"

"Hmmm, she needs to eat something nutritious to regain her vitality, why don't we have dinner earlier? How about... Turtle soup! I shall be the chef this time round so Mother and Auntie can taste my cooking skills." Qing Shui thumped himself on the chest as he exclaimed.

"It's fine, you should go accompany her. Me and your Auntie will do the cooking. Shui'er, if you want to talk to mother about anything, I'm always here okay?" Qing Yi said, as a resolute look flared in her eyes.

The laughter of Qing Shi and Qing Shan followed him all the way up. Gritting his teeth, Qing Shui once again walked up in the direction of the room. Truth to be told, he felt extremely awkward and embarrassed to be in the same room as Wenren Wu-Shuang after what had just happened.

The moment Qing Shui thought of Wu-Shuang, images of her naked body appeared almost immediately in his mind, which caused him to be momentarily breathless. What the eyes have

seen, the mind cannot forget.

He lightly pushed the door open, and saw Wenren Wu-Shuang lying on the bed. Her graceful figure, coupled with the tired look on her face and disheveled hair, would give any man a wild imagination.

“How are you feeling?” Qing Shui forced himself to be brave as he approached and sat by the side of Wu-Shuang.

“Hmm, I feel better now, thank you. Are you an Alchemist?” Wenren Wu-Shuang calmly regarded Qing Shui.

“I think so, just that I’m still not experienced enough to concoct pills.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Help me thank those friends of yours, were it not for them, I would have landed in hot water.”

“What happened?” Qing Shui thought back to the injuries the members of the Greenwolf Gang had sustained.

“Initially, I was to go to the Xue Clan to seek out the antidote. I originally thought that my teacher and Alchemist Xue were blood brothers, but who knew that human hearts could change so quickly. Alchemist Xue, was the same age as my teacher. Despite this, when he saw me, he wanted to take me as his concubine. That was his prerequisite before he would cure me. In a fit of anger, I left the Xue Clan, and coincidentally, I ran into that group of

people you sent. When I saw the letter you left for me, I immediately rushed back to Hundred Miles City.”

“Who would have thought that Xue Dingjiang would actually send men after me, and force me to act despite the poison in my body. He was prepared to save me once the poison in my body acted up, but luckily for me, your friends slaughtered out a bloody path, and we somehow managed to escape. Upon exiting Heavenly River City, my poison started acting up. With no other choice, I used the ‘Deep Sleep Pill’ that my teacher left for me.”

“Deep Sleep Pill?”

“It’s effects include allowing the user to fall in a state of deep sleep, thereby temporarily slowing the spread of poison tremendously. Although it is unable to be used as a cure, it could lengthen the window of the safe period.” Wenren Wu-Shuang explained.

“When I visited the Night Fragrant Court, I was so worried upon learning the news that you’ve been poisoned by that snake demonic beast. I wanted to rush off to Heavenly River City immediately, but then again, I had no confidence in being able to cure the poison. I hesitated, and eventually decided to send the members of the Greenwolf Gang to look for you. If you had not come back today, I would have surely rushed off straight to Heavenly River City.” Qing Shui calmly said, the expression on his face remained unchanged.

Blushing, Wu-Shuang replied, “Thank you, I didn’t know you would care for me that much.” She sighed. Although Qing Shui

saw her body, it was to save her life after all.

“Your elder sister is extremely worried about you, I’ve already sent someone to notify her.” Infusing the Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique into his hands, Qing Shui lightly hit the belly, the thighs, the hips, the shoulders of Wu-Shuang’s body. He wanted to lend the aid of the Ancient Qi to stimulate the functions of Wu-Shuang, letting her recover quicker. However, every time his hands touched that soft skin of hers, he would tremble slightly as he went red. Thoughts of her naked body continually flashed through his mind.

Wenren Wu-Shuang, somehow seemed to be able to sense what Qing Shui was thinking of, as she shyly looked away, not daring to look him in the eyes.

“This is the first time I’ve seen you going red.” Wenren Wu-Shuang whispered softly.

Qing Shui smiled bitterly, “I’m innocent. I’m not thinking of anything bad. You can’t bully a honest guy like me okay.”

“You, honest?”

“That’s right, pure and innocent, honest and handsome. That’s me alright.” Qing Shui carried on spouting nonsense.

“Then why did you squeeze me there when you administered the golden needles.....”

“....., you could feel it?” Qing Shui’s mind was near the breaking point. To think that Wu-Shuang knew of it. Had his image in her mind got torn and shredded to pieces now?

“Of course I could feel it, I just couldn’t move, not even my eyes. You are such a horny little devil, taking advantage of me when I’m in such a state.” Wenren Wu-Shuang got angrier and angrier, her eyes were filled with volcanic flames as she glared at Qing Shui.

“I was wrong, but I’m a victim as well, a victim of your beauty. I know that doesn’t make me any better in your eyes, but you have always been on my mind for the longest time. I couldn’t control myself, if I did not take the slightest advantage of you, I can’t even call myself a man, you can just castrate me. Only a eunuch would have no reaction if he were in my place.” Qing Shui somewhat helplessly replied, as his voice was filled with sincerity.

This guy...

“You took advantage of me, but you still try to make it sound logical.” Wenren Wu-Shuang scolded, as she pouted. Somehow, she doesn’t seem as angry as before.

Qing Shui could only smile wryly as he continued. “Try and see if you can get up from bed.”

“I want you to put on my shoes for me. Consider that the price for taking advantage of me. Pfft.” Wenren Wu-Shuang extended her jade-like legs over as a tone of coquettishness appeared in her voice.

Qing Shui caught hold of her foot, and applied pressure at her Yongquan, Shaohai, Ranggu, Jinmen acupoints, giving her a sudden intense foot massage.

“Uhh!” Wenren Wu-Shuang involuntarily let out a cry, before hastily using both her hands to cover her mouth, looking extremely adorable.

Qing Shui snickered as he said, “Wu-Shuang, custom states that only a husband can help his wife to put on her shoes.”

AST: Chapter 106 – Qing Shui and Wenren Wu-Shuang

Qing Shui snickered as he said, “Wu-Shuang, custom states that only a husband can help his wife to put on her shoes!”

“Ah, then let me do it myself!” She retracted her beautiful foot, but in her heart, she thought the foot massage was very comfortable.

At this moment, the thumping sound of someone knocking on the door came from the outside.

Qing Shui stood up to open the door, and saw his smiling mother standing there. He couldn’t help but blush a little. “Mother, come in.”

When Qing Yi saw Wenren Wu-Shuang, she only had one thought. Her grace was shining, and her beautiful was incomparable. She heard Qing Shi say that she looked like a fairy. She didn’t believe it the first time, but now that she saw Wu-Shuang, she was indeed like a celestial who descended from the heavens.

Wenren Wu-Shuang was having different thoughts at that moment: “No wonder this kid seems so charming and charismatic. He has such a graceful and beautiful mother.”

“Ah, hello aunt!” Wenren Wu-Shuang quickly put on her shoes

and stood up.

“Don’t move. If you’re still weak, then just lay down. I’ve finished preparing the food; I’ll let Qing Shui bring it to you. Your name is Wu-Shuang right? Your beauty really is unparalleled*.” Qing Yi said happily as she held Wenren Wu-Shuang’s hand warmly to lead her back to the bed.

*(TL note: Wu-Shuang means unparalleled)

“Aunt you are the one who is still beautiful despite your age. How can I, Wu-Shuang, compare to you? I’m already not worthy of mentioning,” Wenren Wu-Shuang politely laughed though she was a little anxious in her heart. She didn’t know why, but she was a little nervous.

Qing Yi looked at Qing Shui, and Qing Shui nodded. “Let’s go eat, Wu-Shuang. Try out mom’s delicious cooking.”

Wenren Wu-Shuang didn’t know whether Qing Shui’s words were intentional or not, but when she heard “mom”, she instantly blushed. However, Qing Yi was cheerfully winking towards Qing Shui.

This kid has such affinity with women. He is close to Yu He, plus there’s also rumors that he is close to Shi Qingzhuang. Now there’s another, Wenren Wu-Shuang. The most important thing is that each of them is a peerless beauty! Qing Yi looked at her all grown-up son and lightly sighed.

When Qing Shang, Qing Shi, and Yuan Ying saw Wenren Wu-Shuang, they were all astonished. “She is so beautiful!” Qing Shan said blankly.

Since Qing Shi already went blank once, his expression was a little better compared to the others.

“You’re a Xiantian cultivator?”

“Yes!”

“You’re so pretty. Are you friends with Qing Shui?”

“Yes!”

“Do you like Qing Shui?”

Wenren Wu-Shuang, “...”

Qing Shui lightly hit Qing Shi’s head, “Little kids shouldn’t ask such unnecessary things.”

Qing Shui’s words provoked a wave of merry laughter as well as Qing Shi’s upset voice. During this period of time, Qing Shui, Qing Shan, and Qing Shi were usually together and told each other everything. Young people talk about everything when they are together, and they would of course often talk about women.

Comrades who went to battle together, roommates who shared a room together, and bros who visited brothels together. These were the three ways in which strong bonds were formed in the previous world.

Qing Shui, Qing Shan, and Qing Shi were cousins in the first place, plus they were always together since their ages were similar. The result was that their relationship was this way.

“Qing Shui, impart some of your experience on me. How can I make beautiful little sisters fall for me?” Qing Shi said half-jokingly with subtleties in his expression.

Black fish and turtles were delicious in the first place, but they also greatly aided in recovery, making even Wenren Wu-Shuang’s eyes sparkle as she ate and stared strangely at Qing Shui.

“Aunt, your culinary skills are excellent. This is the most delicious delicacy that I, Wu-Shuang, have ever tasted. I would be so grateful to have such skills like you.”

“If it’s delicious, then eat more. If Wu-Shuang doesn’t have anything to do, then just come over to eat. Aunt would be so delighted if you came by often.” Qing Yi said while smiling satisfyingly.

“If you want to capture a woman’s heart, you have to first capture her stomach.” Qing Shui seriously said to Qing Shan.

Qing Shan nodded in deadly earnestness!

Others, “...”

It was early evening. Outside, the lanterns were lit; their light stones emitting soft rays of light. Since there were many lanterns, the streets of Hundred Miles City were brightly lit as if it were daytime.

Qing Shui and Wenren Wu-Shuang walked towards the Night Fragrance Court together. The night market on the streets was bustling with noise and excitement; everywhere people were talking and laughing. The main attractions of the night market were snacks and refreshments, but of course there were also antiques and small toys as well.

The most common types of people in the night market were families, young lovers, some closer friends, or youths who had feelings for each other!

“Big brother, your girlfriend is so pretty! Buy a flower for her!” A childish voice sounded.

Qing Shui tilted his head down, and saw a little girl who was around five years old. She had a huge pair of eyes, but they didn't have much energy. In the basket that she was holding, there were about ten roses.

Qing Shui looked at this little girl. The way she talked was very

child-like. He didn't deny the relationship between Wenren Wu-Shuang and himself because the girl was too young. However, Wenren Wu-Shuang's face was flushing with red, but Qing Shui was already kneeling in front of the girl. "Little girl, how can you sell flowers at such an early age? Where is your family?"

"Big brother, your girlfriend is so beautiful. Buy a flower for her!" The little girl widened her big eyes and stared hopefully at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui sighed, took a flower, and handed the little girl a tael of silver. He reached out his hand to rub her small head, and silently injected light pressure on her Muchuang, Zhenying, Fengling, Naokong, and Fengfu acupoints.

"Thank you big brother!"

The little girl left without even realizing that Qing Shui gave her more than silver. Though she did know to say thank you, she looked extremely slow-witted.

When she saw Qing Shui sigh, Wenren Wu-Shuang quietly said, "You already gave her a tael of silver. That should be enough to support her for a while."

Qing Shui shook his head. "That money won't stay in her hands. Didn't you notice that she could only speak two sentences?"

Wenren Wu-Shuang frowned. Though she was very intelligent,

she did not think too deeply about the incident. “Are you trying to say that someone else is controlling her?”

“Yes, so it doesn’t matter how much more money we give her. I’m just trying my best, and hoping that whoever is acting behind her would let her have a full meal because of this tael of silver.”

Qing Shui was not pretending to be smart by saying all of this. His family in his previous life was average. Since he came from the countryside, he knew the difficulties of being poor. When he went to the city to study later, he saw too many rich people, and he developed a hatred for the rich. Whenever he saw beggars in the street, whether it was real or fake, he would take money out of his pocket. He tried his best to help the terribly tragic situations of the poor.

He didn’t ask for anything in return, and believed that others who did these same kinds of things would know. He only wanted to do his part. Some of the poor, wouldn’t even have access to cultivation techniques, which sealed them in an unending cycle of poverty. Only through strength, would enable you to lead a better life in this cultivation-oriented world.

Wenren Wushuang’s impression of Qing Shui suddenly got better by loads. The warmth of her eyes as she regarded Qing Shui, was different from the past. At this moment, she only felt that Qing Shui was extremely charismatic, and it was not because of the help he gave the girl, but because of the state of his heart!

“Then why didn’t you save that little girl?” Wenren Wu-Shuang asked, puzzled.

“There would always be a reason behind why it existed, this is not a stand-alone case, this is the evilness inherent in humanity. I don’t have the ability, even if I saved the little girl, so what? She wouldn’t be happy. Moreover, we have to consider the safety of the family of the little girl. If we save the girl, would the other party get revenge on them?”

Looking at the despondent look on Wu-Shuang’s face, Qing Shui replied, “Okay, stop thinking about it, I believe there would be fairness for her. Good exists within evil, and light exists within darkness. If there were no villains in this world, how would there be good people?”

The eyes which Wu-Shuang regarded Qing Shui with, shined with a bright glow, “Your thinking is weird, but it seems to make sense in a strange sort of way.

Qing Shui laughed bitterly, so does that mean he had logic or not? This must be the Dao of “Warped Logic”!

AST: Chapter 107 – Recipe for Small Revitalizing Pellet – Unlocked

“I won’t enter with you. To congratulate you on your full recovery, I’ve prepared two gifts for you. Don’t look at them until you are home!” Qing Shui pulled out a satchel, and contained within it, were two agility-enhancing fruits. He turned his body and departed once the satchel was in Wenren Wu-Shuang’s hands.”

Wenren Wu-Shuang’s eyes were filled with astonishment as she regarded the back view of the departing Qing Shui. After which, she inclined her head, looking at the brightly lit Night Fragrance Court, before entering.

Once he was back home, Qing Shui got bombarded with questions from the others. Especially the envious gaze of Qing Shan, causing Qing Shui to perspire madly behind his back.

Qing Yi only said a single sentence, “Qing Shui, you better work hard and obtain her love; you must not let her fly away.”

Qing Shui almost fell out of his chair when he heard that.

The second morning, Qing Shui met with the members of the Greenwolf Gang. This time around, Qing Shui was very pleased with their performance. So after exchanging a few rounds of polite pleasantries, Qing Shui decided to lead them to the Yu He Inn to have a good meal.

Upon further conversation, Qing Shui realized that the name of the leader from the Greenwolf Gang, was named Qing Lang. The similar surname immediately caused him to feel a sense of kinship with Qing Lang. Looking at the wounds on their bodies, most of the injuries were already closed up and healing, leaving behind scars and scabs.

“Seems like the effects of my Golden Ointment are pretty good.” Qing Shui remembered that state of injury they were in before, the rate of recovery was simply too miraculous.

After they arrived at the Yu He Inn, Yu He was shocked by the sudden influx of gangsters that appeared. However, upon seeing Qing Shui, she opened up a room on the 4th level, and instructed the kitchen to cook the famed black fish, and even went so far as to take out a few bottles of aged “Widowed Fragrance Wine” out for them to enjoy.

Qing Shui only noticed now, that within the 10+ members of the Greenwolf Gang, there were a pair of twin sisters. Their ages were roughly the same as Ding Yuan, their names were Xiao Wen and Xiao Xue!

That fatty, was simply known as 2nd dumbo. Other than the fact that he was a bit slow witted, he possessed tremendous inborn strength.

As for the remaining members, they didn't have any special characteristic for identification, but Qing Shui still remembered

them.

“Like I said, since I’ve promised you, I will definitely do it. What do you require of me?” Qing Shui smiled lightly as he regarded Qing Lang.

“We want your protection, if we want to consolidate our power in Hundred Miles City, we would definitely need someone strong looking after us. With our current strength, we are easy pickings for almost any of the bigger groups and gangs in Hundred Miles City.” Qing Lang said helplessly.

“What’s the purpose of your Greenwolf Gang?” Qing Shui inquired, as he furrowed his brows.

“We would never do something such as bullying the common populace. Mainly, we hunt wild beasts, escort merchandise, hire ourselves out as guards etc.”

“Fine. Based on these points alone, I can promise you that. But you have to be careful not to offend those with powerful authority and status, such as the four great clans. After all, my current power is limited.” Qing Shui candidly replied.

Although currently in Hundred Miles City, with the aid of Yu Donghao and Wenren Wu-Shuang Qing Shui could said to be an unparalleled existence, he didn’t want to create too many big turbulent waves unless he had no choice but to do so.

“Could you give us more of that Golden Ointment?” Qing Lang abruptly stated, causing Qing Shui to be startled. However, Qing Shui swiftly retrieved a third of the Golden Ointment Powder which he had concocted, and passed it over to Qing Lang. “In the future, look for me directly if you need my help. Treat me as a member of the Greenwolf Gang.”

The days quickly went back to their previous peaceful state. However, Qing Shui could only feel a fire burning in his heart. He knew that the days where he would smash his way into the Yan Clan, was not that far now.

Qing Shui was currently concocting the Golden Ointment Powder in a frenzied manner inside his spatial Realm. He was confident that the experience bar would reach 100% today, thereby unlocking the recipe for the Small Revitalizing Pellets.

Before he started today, he was already at 99.8%, now, after half a day of efforts, he finally heard the sound of a system notification.

“Ding!”

A crisp sound rang out once Qing Shui’s XP bar was filled. To him, this was the most beautiful sound he ever heard in his life, because it signified him finally entering the ranks of true alchemists.

In an instant, the previous greyed-out zone in his sea of consciousness, regarding the recipe for the Small Revitalizing Pellet, turned a golden yellow, as information flooded into his brain.

The recipe required: A stalk of 1,000 Year Old Ginseng, a Seahorse, 100 Year Old Cotton snake, Amethyst, Tea Flower, Epimedium, Eternal Spring Flower, Laevigata, 100 Year Old Fungi, and a 300 Year Old Gallbladder from a Crimson Snake king.

Qing Shui muttered to himself, 1,000 Year Old Ginseng, and 300 Year Old Gallbladder from a Crimson Snake King. Damn, the snake was at least at the desolate grade.

Effects of the Small Revitalizing Pellet:

Able to immensely strengthen constitution of the user, granting a stronger bone structure and cleanse impurities.

Able to raise the strength and speed of the user permanently by 10%.

For a short time, all internal injuries sustained to the organs, would heal at a rapid speed.

The effects of the pill only stack once. Two pills per human, anymore, the effect would be lost.

Upon seeing the effects of the pellet, Qing Shui couldn't help grinning. This pellet, how insanely perverse.

What a pity that there was a consumption limit of 2 pellets per human. Disregarding the rarity of the materials, Qing Shui

couldn't help grinning to ear to ear. At long last, he had finally become an alchemist. With this recipe in his mind, Qing Shui's eyes sparkled as he imagined himself drowning in money. Was this how the sons of the rich and wealthy feel like?

Looking at the list of ingredients required, with the exception of the 100 Year Old Cotton Snake, Eternal Spring Flowers, and the 300 Year Old Gallbladder, his spatial realm already contained the rest.

“Fuck!!!!!!! To unlock the next recipe, the Five Dragon Pellet, I would need to reach 4000% of the experience bar?” His mood instantly sank as he stared, dumbstruck, at the information in his sea of consciousness.

“..... how much time would I need to spend on alchemy to gain the 4000% experience. Fuck his mother, who the hell came up with this shitty system.”

After cursing for half a day, Qing Shui finally calmed down. Luckily he had the aid of the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. Upon realizing this, he couldn't help but wonder, was there someone manipulating things from the darkness? Everything seemed to fall nicely in place for him. Was it the machinations of fate at work? Hmm.

—————

The next morning, Qing Shui went to the Yu He Inn. Noting his arrival, the waitresses of the Yu He Inn all paused and greeted him,

“Young Master!” Qing Shui went to the Yu He Inn so often, that it could be called his second home.

“These are your proceeds for the fish.” Yu He smiled as she passed over a stack of banknotes to Qing Shui.”

Looking at the 50,000 taels of silver worth of banknotes in front of him, Qing Shui smiled in satisfaction. Seems like this sum of money would enable him to obtain the rare and valuable ingredients needed to experiment on concocting of the Small Revitalizing Pellets!

“You look to be in a good mood today, go take a seat, I will whip up a few dishes for you in the kitchen.”

Qing Shui happily agreed. Seeing the smile on Qing Shui’s face, Yu He couldn’t help but let a smile light up her face as well. However, Qing Shui didn’t notice that contained within the smile of Yu He, was a sense of deep melancholy.

AST: Chapter 108 – Gongyang Yu's fetish

In the afternoon, when uncle Qing Hu returned, to everyone's surprise, he brought along Qing Hu and Qing Bei as well. Qing Shui felt incomparably joyful upon seeing them!

Qing Hu and Qing Bei, were obviously very happy to see him as well. Especially Qing Bei, she had long thought of Qing Shui as her brother. Now after half a year, they could finally meet again.

Naturally, young people would love the lively, bustling atmosphere of the streets. Qing Shui as their host brought the two of them around Hundred Miles City while pointing out scenic locations, as well as places of interests.

“Shui gege, this hairpin is so beautiful.” Qing Bei pulled Qing Shui along as she pointed to a green butterfly hairpin made of jade.

“Boss, how much is this?”

“Ahh, this young lady has such good taste. This hairpin could be consider top-grade among the merchandise I'm selling. How about 2 taels of silver?” The middle-aged female shopkeeper laughed.

Qing Shui paid the price for the hairpin, and handed it to Qing Bei. Looking at the radiant smile on Qing Bei's face, he couldn't help but feel joy blossoming in his heart.

During the night, Qing Yi and Yuanying cooked a scrumptious

meal for the Qing Clan members. Upon tasting the black fish and the turtle soup, the ravenous look on Qing's Hu face caused everyone to break out into laughter. Naturally, this was the first time he had tasted the black fish.

Heavenly River City!

In the majestic-looking main residence of the mayor of the Heavenly River City, a handsome youth was sitting in the courtyard, sipping his tea while admiring the flowers. This fellow had jade white skin, thin lips, and a pair of peach-blossom eyes. Somehow, even though he appeared to be lacking any hints of masculinity, and was more to the feminine side, people who saw him would think of him as a pretty boy rather than a sissy.

“Young Master, Young Master Yang is here in the main hall. An old servant exclaimed.

“Got it.” The crisp sounding voice of the youth was tinged with civility, and filled with penetrating power.

He stood up and walked towards the main hall, which was the most impressive looking structure in the entire residence.

“Yan Qi, you are here!” The youth enthusiastically greeted him once he saw Yan Qi.

Yang Yan Qi was the descendant of the Yang Clan in the Heavenly River City. The Yang Clan could be considered a clan with substantial power, and had close ties with the Gongyang Clan. The two of them grew up together and were extremely close, just like blood brothers.

“Brother Yu, are you going to the Hundred Miles City?”

“Right, I can’t wait to taste the legendary black fish of the Yu He Inn. My hobbies are simple... beautiful women and good food! I definitely have to try the legendary black fish out.” Gongyang Yu touched his chin as he spoke.

“Brother Yu, I’ve heard some news.” Yang Yan Qi slowly stated as he looked towards Gongyang Yu.

“What news? Why are you hesitating?” Gongyang Yu asked, puzzled. Usually, Yan Qi was extremely forthright and direct.

“The little lass which brought humiliation to Lan Yan`er is currently in Hundred Miles City. Not only that, her brother Qing Hu, the one who wanted to woo Miss Lan is also there. They are both currently in the city now.”

“What? How do you know of this?” Gongyang Yu, asked with some suspicion in his tone.

“Situ Bu Fan from the Situ Clan told me. His fiancée was seduced by that bastard Qing Shui from the Qing Clan, and not only that,

he was defeated by Qing Shui when he went to seek redress. Thus, he wished that by telling you this, you would help avenge him.” Yang Yan Qi stated.

“Hehe, what a useless fellow; he can’t even protect his fiancée. Of course I can help him. However, my condition is that I want to meet his fiancée. A woman that’s fought for by others, her beauty shouldn’t be too bad right?”

Gongyang Yu licked his lips as he grinned lasciviously.

For a whole three days, Qing Shui brought Qing Hu and Qing Bei, touring every part of Hundred Miles City. In a mere three days, they had already spent a few thousand taels of silver.

Qing Shui, didn’t feel too terrible about it. After all, once a person was rich, he would start to flaunt his wealth.

These past few days, there were quite a few visitors with extraordinary status that visited Hundred Miles City. Sitting on a carriage, pulled along by a Flamekin Oxen, they attracted the stares of the crowd wherever they went. There were two middle-aged men seated in the driving seat. These two were none other than the driver and the beast tamer!

“Young Master, where do you want to go?” One of the middle-aged man respectfully inquired.

“Yu He Inn.” Gongyang Yu lazily exclaimed.

The driver directed the Flamekin Oxen as they stopped outside the Yu He Inn.

“What a aromatic smell!”

As the carriage stopped, three people stepped out from the carriage. They were Gongyang Yu, Yang Yan Qi, as well as a solemn looking middle-aged man.

They had used a total of 3 days, and rushed over to Hundred Miles City. The earlier exclamation about the smell, was made by non other than the middle-aged man.

“Uncle Zhong, even you find the smell alluring. Seems like the reputation of the Yu He Inn is not unfounded.” Gongyang Yu was very respectful to this middle-aged man.

“Let’s enter and verify the rumors about the taste.” The middle-aged man smiled. The smile on his face did not appear naturally, as if, forced... In fact, he looked even more fearsome smiling compared to when he was not.

The three of them strolled into the Yu He Inn, under the lead of a waitress, they sat down in a corner of the main hall.

“Give me three, no, give me six of your famed black fish.” Yang Yan Qi ordered the waitress attending to them.

Gongyang Yu was eyeing the uniformed waitress. Contained in his eyes, was a hint of an unconcealed expression of lust.

“I’m sorry, the black fish are sold out for today, could esteemed guest please order something else instead?”

“What? Sold out? We travelled over 1,000 miles to reach Hundred Miles City. Why would we even be here if not for the black fish.” Yang Yan Qi slammed his fist down onto the table.

Gongyang Yu and the solemn-look man had no changes in their expressions. Gongyang Yu was still eyeing the waitress with a smile on his face, a twinkle in his peach-blossom eyes.”

“Sir, the black fish are really sold out for the day, would you mind coming back early tomorrow morning if you insist on trying the black fish?” The waitress was still smiling, but traces of nervousness could be seen in her eyes.

“F*ck, a small inn in Hundred Miles City actually has the audacity to put on airs in front of this young master. Do you believe I won’t dismantle this building in front of your eyes?” Yang Yan Qi shouted, creating a huge commotion.

“Get the person in charge over here.” Gongyang Yu smiled sweetly to the distressed waitress.

“Yes sir, please wait a moment!”

A while later, Yu He appeared in front of the three of them.

“Our apologies, esteemed guests. I’ve already instructed the kitchens to prepare the dishes for you. They should be served fairly quickly.” Yu He, from the words and the aura she sensed, knew that these three customers were people with extraordinary backgrounds.

“You are the one that decides matters for the Yu He Inn?” Gongyang Yu asked. He was immensely aroused by the beautiful features of Yu He.

Gongyang Yu especially loved the feeling of f*cking young wives and widows. In Heavenly River City, he had tasted several. With his looks and status in Heavenly River City, he had no lack of women willing to sleep around with him. Once, in Heavenly River City, he had seduced a recently married young woman, and f*cked her right in front of her husband. Powerlessness and desperation eventually drove the man to commit suicide. Other than that, in another case, he had sent his men to drug a newlywed couple, killing the man and kidnapping the woman, before slowly playing with her. However, aside from his fetish for married women, his other hobby, was playing with widows.

Everything about Yu He, her features, her figure, the sound of her voice, and her every actions, deeply attracted Gongyang Yu. Obviously, he had done his research before they came to Hundred

Miles City.

“This Yu He Inn belongs to me, of course I make the decisions here. To apologize, let this meal be on me.” Yu He sincerely added.

A radiant light lit up in Gongyang Yu’s eyes as joy blossomed in his heart. “To think such a beautiful woman exists in Hundred Miles City. Not only that, she is my favourite type too. Just by looking at her face, I can tell that she’s of strong character. But the stronger the better, I like nothing more than this type of strong women under me, with their face filled with passion, as they submit to my every desire.”

AST: Chapter 109 – Killing Xiantian

“How should we address you? You can call me Gongyang Yu, I came from Heavenly River City. We are here today to try out the legendary black fish from the Yu He Inn. Please forgive my brother Yan Qi for his earlier outburst.” Gongyang Yu smiled as he stood up and explained.

Yu He was bewildered by the sudden change. The originally murderous rage and killing intent had suddenly disappeared, replaced by this smiling Gongyang Yu.

“My name is Yu He, I shall take my leave here so as not to disturb you, esteemed guests.”

“Why are you in such a hurry? Why don’t you join us, and we can enjoy the meal together?” Yang Yan Qi, from the look in Gongyang Yu’s eyes, knew that his brother was interested in this woman, and it was not merely on the level of being interested. Gongyang Yu had to have Yu He.

Yu He slightly creased her brow, as she stared with disgust at Yang Yan Qi.

“What are you looking at? Are you unhappy? Do you understand the status my brother holds in Heavenly River City? Him wanting you is a sign of glory for you, you bitch.” Yang Yan Qi disdainfully smiled. The Yang Clan was a large clan which hailed from Heavenly River City. How could they put a small clan like the Yu Clan in their eyes?

He knew that the Yu Clan possessed a Xiantian cultivator, but that Xiantian expert had already been crippled. Not only that, but what was one Xiantian expert? In his Yang Clan alone, they had the support of several Xiantian cultivators.

“This is the Yu He Inn, I respect my customers, but I request that you also respect me. Please watch your words, or I will expel you from my inn.” Yu He coldly stated.

“Hahaha! Watch my words? So what if I don’t? Let me put it to you plainly. Today, not only must you accompany us for our meal, tonight, you have to sleep with my brother as well.”

Just as Yu He’s anger rose to the limit, a lazy sounding voice drifted over. “Which dog from the Yang Clan is barking? It sounds so annoying, why don’t they leash the dog at home instead of bringing it out for it to bark at people. Even though it’s bark is noisy, I don’t believe it would dare bite someone. But then again, it would be good if it bit someone. This way, we would have a reason to kill it.” Although the tone behind the voice was lazy, it was filled with force. Qing Shui stepped into the Yu He Inn, as he spoke with a smile that was not quite a smile.

Today Qing Shui had come to the Yu He inn with the intentions of delivering the fish and turtles to Yu He. To think that the moment he stepped inside, he heard the arrogant words of Yang Yan Qi, and upon seeing Yu He loss for words, he naturally stepped out transforming into the hero that saved the beauty...

“Qing Shui!” Upon seeing Qing Shui, Yu He felt much better. It was as if he was an unyielding support that would be there for her no matter what happened.

“Fuck, small boy, are you looking to die?” Yang Yan Qi had never felt such a humiliation before. He was the young master of a great clan, never had he been scolded in such a manner before.

“Sorry, I don’t speak dog. Please bark at your fellow dogs instead. If you can’t understand, then I will have to hit you.” Qing Shui grinned.

“Boy, go to hell.” Yang Yan Qi was incensed. Qing Shui calling him a dog left and right, and totally disregarding him. If he didn’t smash Qing Shui into smithereens, he wouldn’t be able to resolve the hatred in his heart.

“Yan Qi, be careful. Don’t screw this up.” Gongyang Yu was observing Qing Shui, and he could feel that Qing Shui was somewhat different, and should be hiding something up his sleeves.

“Bad dog, I will have to teach you how to be obedient.” Qing Shui laughed out loud. Standing motionless in his original spot, he calmly watched as Yan Qi dashed over, before releasing a single punch.

The punch that Qing Shui released was sent out after the attack of Yan Qi, but strangely, it connected first.

Ka Cha!”

“Arghhhhhhh!”

With a casual punch, the impact caused Yan Qi’s shoulder to pop out from his socket, as the bones in his arms crumbled.

“Huh, he’s this weak? He’s acting so arrogant in Hundred Miles City, if he wasn’t at Xiantian level, he should definitely at least be at Martial Commander level right?” Bewilderment painted Qing Shui’s face.

The pain of his broken arm caused Yang Yan Qi to sink into unconsciousness.

Only then did Gongyang Yu and Uncle Zhong seriously regard Qing Shui now. Yang Yan Qi was someone at the peak of the Martial General Level. There shouldn’t be many who could defeat him amongst the younger generation in Hundred Miles City.

But who knew that, such a youth would actually appear! Not only that, but he only used a single punch to defeat Yang Yan Qi.

“Little Fellow, what a brilliant fist technique!” The man named Uncle Zhong said, with traces of a smile on his face.

“Thank you for your praise, but that dog earlier was too useless. It only knows how to bark, but not bite. What a stupid dog.” Qing Shui sarcastically remarked. Since the three of them had come to make trouble for Yu He, there was no need for him to be polite to

them.

“Wow, what a vigorous youth, but didn’t your family members teach you not to mouth off so rudely to your elders?” The man named uncle Zhong deliberately released some of his aura as he spoke.

As the last word “elders” sounded out, his aura condensed into some sort of thick white Qi which was surrounding Uncle Zhong. The pressure it emitted was intense.

“Xiantian cultivator!” Yu He exclaimed in shock. Ten years ago, she had once witnessed her grandpa doing such a thing. This half foot long wall of white Qi, was precisely the Xiantian Qi of Xiantian cultivators!

“Little lass, you are quite knowledgeable, however, it’s too late for the little boy.” The solemn face of Uncle Zhong turned bestial as he prepared to end Qing Shui’s life.”

“Don’t kill him please, the matter today has nothing to do with him. I will bear the consequences myself.” Yu He pulled Qing Shui behind her as she took two steps forwards to block the path of the Xiantian cultivator.

“Yu He.....” Only now did Qing Shui understand how much Yu He cared for him. She was willing to be his shield and sacrifice, just so he could leave safely. Sourness blossomed in his heart, as he cursed himself for being such a stupid fool. Such a good woman standing in front of him, protecting him when he should be

protecting her. But, how had he treated her recently?

“Hehe, nothing to do with him? Then what happened to my brother? Did he fall down and break his arms?” Gongyang Yu stood up as a malicious look flashed in his eyes.

“Your friend attacked first...”

“Fucking bitch. Today not only will I demolish your Inn, but I’m going to fondle and play with you right in front of him.” The beautiful countenance of Gongyang Yu, transformed from an angelic pretty boy, to a devil in an instant.

“You just signed your death warrant.” Qing Shui pulled Yu He aside as extreme anger contorted his features. Never had he felt like killing someone so much before. Not even Situ Bufan had made him feel like this.

“With just you?” Gongyang Yu laughed uproariously as he heard that. It was as though this was the funniest joke he had ever heard in his life.

Qing Shui’s icy gaze never left Gongyang Yu’s face as his bloodlust surged relentlessly.

“Uncle Zhong, kill him!” Gongyang Yu chortled with laughter.

“Don’t kill him, you all can’t kill him. If not my grandpa won’t spare the both of you.” Yu He frantically begged, looking at Uncle

Zhong.

“Your grandpa? Ha ha, I know Yu Donghao was a Xiantian cultivator 10 years ago. However, now he is only an old cripple.” Uncle Zhong laughed manically.

“You are not to allowed to insult my grandpa!”

“Insult? If he is here now, then I would kill him myself.” Uncle Zhong coldly snorted.

“Do you really think that with just a cultivation level at the Xiantian Realm you can be this arrogant?” Qing Shui calmly spoke as he regarded Uncle Zhong.

“Little boy, Xiantian may not count for much in other places, but in this city, I am God. Who can stop me? Come, I will leave your body whole for the crows to feast on.” After speaking, he lunged towards Qing Shui, as a layer of silvery light coated his hands. He dove straight towards Qing Shui’s heart, with a speed as fast as a phantom.

“Xiantian cultivators are truly not simple indeed.” Qing Shui murmured. However, after he consumed the two agility-enhancing fruits, his speed had already increased to an inconceivable extent. Grabbing Yu He as he stepped aside, he narrowly dodged the attack of his opponent by an inch.

“Good, good. Even I couldn’t tell that your speed was this quick.”

Qing Shui's movement was as smooth as an earthworm in mud, he executed the freedom steps to its limit! Finally, after avoiding over ten strikes from Uncle Zhong, Qing Shui had no more space to retreat. Helpless, he could only glance at the palm strikes of Uncle Zhong, which were coming nearer and nearer, as well as the wretched smile on his opponent's face. Summoning all his Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he infused his arms, and sent out both of his palms to meet the attacks of his opponent!

Peng!

The body of Qing Shui was flung into the air, as he smashed onto the thick stone wall of Yu He Inn, before falling to the ground, spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood.

Qing Shui bitterly smiled, Xiantian lifeforms were an existence that he did not have the power to win against yet. Using the entire strength of his body, he only managed to force his opponent back half a step?

Uncle Zhong on the other hand, felt immense shock in his heart. Earlier in that strike, he had utilized over 80% of his strength, but to think that he couldn't even kill the brat? His eyes further widened as he saw Qing Shui picking himself up, and brushing the blood from his mouth. It didn't seem like Qing Shui was seriously injured. The killing intent in his eyes got increasingly stronger. If he didn't take the chance to finish Qing Shui before he matured, maybe in the future when Qing Shui was his age, he would become an existence surpassing Xiantian!

Seeing the look in Uncle Dong's eyes, Qing Shui knew that today, no matter what, he had to kill the one surnamed Zhong!

Retrieving another agility-enhancing fruit from his spatial realm, Qing Shui rapidly ate it. His movements were so fast that no one else could even see what exactly was the thing he was eating. Yu He, with her eyes filled of tears, ran over to Qing Shui's side.

Qing Shui gazed gently at Yu He, as he kissed her forehead. Those bloodstained lips of his, left behind a cherry red mark upon the place he kissed.

Feeling the effects of the agility-enhancing fruits activating, he knew that at least for a quarter of an hour, his speed was doubled. He believed that with his speed now, even if he couldn't kill his opponent, he would still be able to grievously injure him.

"Sigh, the Xiantian stage could basically be considered freaks. They are too strong." Silently, in his hands, a golden needle was clutched within it.

"Brat, prepare to die now."

Qing Shui felt that the aura surrounding the middle-aged man, strengthened a lot this time round. His fist that was coated with a layer of inch thick Xiantian Qi. Uncle Zhong wanted to kill Qing Shui with this strike.

Qing Shui's heart involuntarily trembled with fear as he watched

the fist getting nearer and nearer. Despite this, he completely activated the Qi from his Ancient Strengthening Technique in his body as he prepared to make his move.

Strangely enough, Qing Shui felt as if the space around him was being locked by a strange pressure. There was no way for him to dodge the incoming strike. Gritting his teeth, Qing Shui stared defiantly in the eyes of Uncle Zhong.

At the moment of contact, Qing Shui violently lurched his body to the side, avoiding an impact to his vital areas. His right hand, swiftly shot out, clutching the golden needle within, and pierced into the heart of Uncle Zhong. As the needle pierced him, Qing Shui activated the full brunt of his power, and imbued the needle with his primordial flames, which was powered by the entirety of the Qi in his body from his Ancient Strengthening Technique!Return

AST: Chapter 110 – Crisis

By the time Uncle Zhong felt the prick in his heart, it was already too late for him. An explosion of the primordial flame took place as his heart exploded, and he instantly died.

Even though Qing Shui managed to avoid his vital areas getting struck, the palm covered with Xiantian Qi still managed to strike his shoulder. Flying backwards from the impact, the bones of his shoulder shattered, and his flesh was torn apart as blood leaked out unceasingly. Despite this, all that could be heard as he was flung backwards, was the sound of Qing Shui's maniacal laughter.

In an instant, everyone was dumbstruck. Yu He filled with panic, rushed over to Qing Shui's side as she embraced him. "How are you feeling?"

Qing Shui, who was lying against Yu He's chest, felt extremely satisfied in his heart. Were it not for the temporary boost in speed he gained after he ate the agility-enhancing fruits, then he would have had no way to avoid the deadly strike earlier. Only by putting himself in extreme danger, and matching blows with the man named Zhong, would Qing Shui be able to find a sliver of opportunity.

The blood leaking from his wounds, dyed the whole robe of Yu He red. With his uninjured hand, Qing Shui quickly sealed his acupoints to stop the bleeding, and heightened his recovery rate with his needle techniques. Somehow, it seemed that the Yin-Yang Jade Pendant in his sea of consciousness was shining with a brighter light than usual as it sent out waves after waves of

soothing energy, numbing his pain.

Gongyang Yu dumbly stared at the corpse of his Uncle Zhong. Is this the real life, or is this a dream? How could the end result be like this? He was a Xiantian cultivator! Looking around, he noticed that the other patrons of the Yu He Inn had already fled, leaving only the three of them behind.

“Qing Shui, are you okay? Don’t scare me! Please be okay!” As Yu He looked at the pale white countenance of Qing Shui, she couldn’t control her tears any more.

“I’m fine, help to pour this powder over my shoulder.” Qing Shui fumbled as he withdrew a bottle filled with the Golden Ointment Powder as he handed it over to Yu He.

Yu He accepted the bottle from Qing Shui, and she sprinkled the golden powder on his shoulders. In an instant, waves of coolness wrapped around his whole body, causing Qing Shui to feel very comfortable. The places where his flesh was torn, began stitching itself back together at inconceivable speed. The process was so fast that even the naked eye could observe it.

“What a miraculous powder!” Yu He, upon taking note of the recovery of Qing Shui, happily exclaimed.

Qing Shui, at this moment, was playing through the scenes of the battle earlier in his mind. This was the first time he fought a life and death battle with a Xiantian cultivator. The feeling of taking a life, felt extremely strange. What Yu He didn’t know was that Qing

Shui wasn't trembling from fear, but was trembling from excitement instead!

Looking at the weak-looking, trembling Qing Shui cradled in Yu He's embrace, Gongyang Yu drew his sword as he approached them. No matter what, his cultivation was at the 10th level of the martial commander realm. He was at the peak of Houtian! In his mind, he had already decided what he was going to do. He would screw Yu He in front of Qing Shui, fondle her and fill her up to his heart's content before killing Qing Shui!

But at this moment, before he could execute his plan, a person suddenly entered!

Yu DongHao!

"Grandpa!" Yu He frantically called out.

"It's fine now. Bring Qing Shui with you to rest. I will clean up here." The tone of Yu DongHao was gentle and peaceful, but his eyes radiated the sharpness of a sword as he glared at Gongyang Yu, filled with killing intent!

Qing Shui knew that Yu DongHao would show no mercy to Gongyang Yu. Even the unconscious Yang Yan Qi wouldn't be able to escape his wrath.

Although this didn't mean that they were safe from the repercussions from Heavenly River City, at the very least it would

delay their investigations.

Qing Shui laid on the bed of Yu He, as Yu He removed his bloodstained clothes, and changed him into a set of pyjamas. The blanket was filled with Yu He's fragrance, and Qing Shui contently laid there, thinking about the direction of which path he should take in the future.

After a moment, Yu Donghao entered, his countenance extremely heavy.

“They are from Heavenly River City. Not only that, but that youth earlier was the son of the City Lord.”

The words of Yu Donghao caused the atmosphere to turn heavy. Heavenly River City, was one of the biggest cities in the Cang Lang Country. They actually managed to offend the city lord of the Heavenly River City.

“They are all dead now. If it's a fortunate event, it is good, if it is a disaster, no matter what we do, we wouldn't be able to avoid it as well. Since the deed is done, there's no need to keep thinking about it. I've removed both Gongyang Yu, Yang Yan Qi and the man named Zhong. It should be able to give us some time before they trace the lead back to us.” Yu Donghao calmly stated. His words also managed to ease some of the burden in Qing Shui's heart.

Qing Shui knew that the thing he needed most now, was time. Given time, with his spatial realm, he knew he would surely be able to break through to Xiantian!

“Qing Shui, to think that you are able to kill a Xiantian-level cultivator, your strength really is unfathomable.” Yu Donghao praised, as a smile lit up his face.

“It was only due to good luck, he was too careless!” Qing Shui modestly forced a smile on his face.

Seeing how fatigued Qing Shui was, Yu Donghao brought Yu He out, before bidding Qing Shui to rest.

Although Yu Donghao didn't allowed his emotions to show, his heart was shuddering. This youth, just broke the fabled legends that Xiantian cultivators were invincible. Houtian killing Xiantian!

Qing Shui couldn't calm his mind down enough to sleep. Son of the City Lord. Doesn't that meant that the Gongyang Yu was the person Lan Yan`er was betrothed to?

“Didn't he just created a widow out of nothing? According to the customs of this world, Lan Yan`Er was now a widow.” Qing Shui rubbed his nose, he knew that Qing Hu would surely be ecstatic if this news was known. However, such matters should be best kept secret.

Heavenly River City, Residence of the City Lord!

“What? Yu`er is dead?!” The sound of a voice filled with disbelief, and anger echoed throughout the residence.

“City Lord, this news from Hundred Miles City, without a doubt, is extremely accurate!” An unknown youth bowed his head as he spoke.

“Wh.. WHO DID IT?” The sound of ragged breathing could be heard, as that sturdy silhouette bent over with grief...

“Qing Clan and the Yu Clan. Even the bodies of Young Master, Uncle Zhong and Yang Yan Qi have disappeared without a trace.”

“The Qing Clan and the Yu Clan, I vow to make both your clans disappear from the face of this world!” That voice roared with rage.

“Inform the Elders Association. Dispatch the 5th regiment and get them to await my orders.” The City Lord instructed with hatred.

“Understood!”

Strangely enough, even though Yu Donghao buried the bodies, the matter of the fight in the Yu He Inn quickly spread, as the news of Qing Shui killing the Young City Lord and a Xiantian cultivator spread throughout the whole of Hundred Miles City.

“That Qing Shui from the Qing Clan, he is that powerful? He can even kill a Xiantian.”

“What a load of nonsense, how could a Xiantian cultivator fall so easily.”

“It’s true! Not only that, he also killed the Young City Lord of the Heavenly River City!”

“So domineering? Let’s stay away from him, I think he should be dead soon from the vengeance of Heavenly River City.”

“Qing Shui what on earth happened? Are the rumors true?” The members of Qing Clan bombarded him with questions the moment he returned.

Without a choice, Qing Shui could only give a brief breakdown of the circumstances and things that happened to his family.

“You guys return to the Qing Clan Village. I will bear the consequences alone.” Qing Shui resolutely stated. After some discussion, the members of the Qing Clan decided to send someone

to inform the clan head, after all, he was some who had lived for so long, and experienced so many things, so he should have some ideas on how to avert the disaster.

Wenren Wu-Shuang also came back and encouraged Qing Shui, saying that everything would have a solution. Looking at how worried Wenren Wu-Shuang was for him, Qing Shui couldn't help but feel a weird sense of happiness. The other clans in Hundred Miles City drew a clear line with the Qing Clan. Even the Yu Clan. Other than Yu Donghao and Yu He, the rest of them hated Qing Shui for dragging the Yu Clan down with them.

“Qing Shui, you even dared to compete with me for Shi Qingzhuang. I will see if you still can survive this time round.” Sitting on his lap, was a beautiful looking servant girl. Situ Bufan was fondling her as he pleased, as a dark grin could be seen on his face.

The figure of the servant girl was well proportioned. Tearing apart her robes, he buried his face inside her breasts and started to suck on her nipples, while both his hands tightly squeezed that perky ass of hers.

“Climb on top of me” Situ Bufan gasped, as if he was somehow short of breath.

The servant girl obediently did as commanded, and angled herself on top of Situ Bufan as he tore away his pants, trying to

force that half-hard earthworm of his inside the pleasure hole of the girl.

“Shi Qingzhuang, one of these days, I’m going to play with you to death!”

“AHHH!”

No matter how much he tried, he wasn’t able to get it hard.

“Scram, FUCK THIS, useless thing!” Situ Bufan screamed madly, as he looked at his already shrunken dick. It was useless even under the effects of medication. His anger was fearsome to witness, and it was unknown whether he was cursing others, or cursing himself.

“WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? FUCK OFF!” He screamed to the servant girl as a slap landed on her face.

TL: I thought the one QS injured, was Situ Bufan’s cousin. Maybe this is a hereditary disease of the Situ Clan?

ED: ^ His cousin was the one that got the neuter-kick, so it sounds like a personal problem for him. Maybe that aphrodisiac Shi Qingzhuang got poisoned with was meant for him?

died.

AST: Chapter 111 – Beauty That Can Topple Kingdoms

“Is the news reliable? That the Gongyang Clan and Yang Clan from Heavenly River City is currently on their way to Hundred Miles City?” Qing Shui knit his brows as he inquired about the news from Qing Lang.

Qing Shui was very satisfied and happy with Qing Lang. True friends would only show their worth during the most desperate moments of all. Not only did the Greenwolf gang draw a clear boundary with him, Qing Lang still personally delivered the news about Heavenly River City’s movements to him.

“Thank you, Qing Lang. During these days, don’t look for me anymore. Temporarily leave Hundred Miles City.” Qing Shui said heavily as he patted Qing Lang on his shoulder.

Qing Lang paused, before momentarily sighing as he departed.

“At the most, it should only take two more days for those from Heavenly River City to arrive. What should I do!” Qing Shui felt extremely helpless.

Frustrated, Qing Shui entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Upon entering, his heart trembled as he suddenly noticed the Cloudflame Cylinder, which Baili Jingwei had given him.

Qing Shui still remembered clearly the words Baili Jing wei spoke. “As long as you are within the Cang Lang country, at the very most, in just 3 days, there will be people arriving to help you. I too would rush there if possible.”

Qing Shui knew that Baili Jingwei had an extraordinary background. Thus, he no longer hesitated, and brought the Cloudflame Cylinder out of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

“Xiu!” A extremely sharp, ear piercing sound rang out, as a splendid looking cloud shot out of the Cloudflame Cylinder. It was incomparably radiant, and hovered around in the air, taking a long time to dissipate.

Although the cloud created from firing the cylinder was big, and had reached an immense height, it wasn’t to the point there it was visible to everyone in Cang Lang Country. Still, Qing Shui guessed that the comrades of Baili Jingwei should be extremely sensitive towards it, and have some way of communicating once they saw it.

“Sky Sword Sect, Cloudflame Cylinder! How long has it been since I last saw one.” A middle-aged man from the Canghai Clan in Cang Lang Country inclined his head as he cast his vision upon the cloud created from firing the cylinder.

“Huh? The Cloudflame Cylinder? Why did it appear in the air above Hundred Miles City?” In the air, a man riding atop a huge purple-eyed falcon, was murmuring to himself.

Many from Hundred Miles City also saw the cloud created, and

those with some experience could deduce that this was a summoning device used by one of the huge sects – the Sky Sword Sect from the Cang Lang Country.

“What a pretty looking cloud!”

“Why would someone from the Sky Sword Sect meet with danger in our Hundred Miles City? Those that possess such a summoning device are all high ranking members of the sect.”

“There were actually people who dared to step on the tails of the Sky Sword Sect? How unlucky for them!”

Qing Shui was stunned as he heard the voices of discussion. The thing he shot up, was actually the Cloudflame Cylinder of the Sky Sword Sect? Then who in the world was Baili Jingwei?

“Could this be... There will always be pathways for one to take, no matter how dire the circumstances are.” Qing Shui actually felt his heart calming down.

“Let’s survive this catastrophe first, no matter what price I need to pay!” After which, Qing Shui assured his family as well as Yu Donghao and Yu He, in order to lessen their worries.

“From your description, the man you mentioned, Baili Jingwei, should be the leader of the Sky Sword Sect. His actual name is not known to many. Instead, he goes by the title ‘Sky Sword Immortal’.” Yu Donghao explained after he contemplated the

information he received from Qing Shui.

Waiting was a form of torture, and especially for someone like Qing Shui, considering the life-threatening situation he was in. During noon time of the second day, a voice filled with immense hatred roared out in the air above Hundred Miles City.

The next moment, a low but heavy voice echoed, “Yu Clan, Qing Clan, listen well to I, your father, since you dared to kill my son, I will give you an hours time to appear before me. If the time limit is up and you still haven’t appeared, don’t blame me for dying the streets of this city red with blood.

“Wah, the Purple-Eyed Falcon, thats a 3rd-grade demonic beast!” An experienced 30 year old male exclaimed with envy.

“The people from Heavenly River City are here for revenge!” Someone shouted!

As Qing Shui and Yu Donghao appeared and saw the Purple-Eyed Falcon, Yu Donghe silently sighed. “Even if there were 3 or 5 of him, it’s still impossible to defeat that demonic beast, let alone its owner.”

Qing Shui estimated that the wingspan of this bird was at least 100 meters in width. There was also that sharp glint of light that flickered in the beast’s purple eyes, along with its steel-like talons that were as thick as a human’s thigh. The demonic beast in front of him, was incomparable in power to the White-Headed Inky Jade Condor he had killed back when he was adventuring in the Million

Li Mountains.

“I’m Yu Donghao from the Yu Clan. May I ask who your Eminence is? Why do you say that the Yu Clan and Qing Clan killed your son?” The sound of Yu Donghao’s crisp voice inquired.

“Yu Donghao? I didn’t expect that you have recovered to the Xiantian level. No wonder my son and his protector died in Hundred Miles City. Other than you, there’s no one else capable of doing this.”

“Your Eminence is overestimating my power.” Yu Donghao, without fear, looked straight at the middle-aged powerful man who was standing atop the demonic beast.

“Overestimating you? Your deeds were clearly seen by my spy. Do you take me for a fool? With my strength, I can kill you immediately. I, Gongyang Xuanton, the people I kill today are all fully deserving of their deaths. I’m not bullying the weak with my strength. Aside from killing your Yu Clan, I will also wipe out the entire Qing Clan as well!”

“Are you not afraid of Heaven’s wrath? If you want to unleash your hatred and anger, you are welcome to take it out on this old man. Don’t implicate others who are innocent.” Yu Donghao was infuriated as he heard the words of Gongyang Xuanton.

“Innocent? What bullshit. Do you think that no one witnessed you killing my son and destroying his body? As for the protector, he was someone at the peak of the 1st level of Xiantian, to think

that he would fall in your hands as well. You did a great job in concealing your power.” Gongyang Xuanton angrily roared.

Qing Shui was incomparably astonished, and he could deduce that if they were not betrayed by members of the Yu Clan, then it must have really been that his actions were seen by a spy of the Gongyang Clan. But this man was saying that Uncle Zhong was killed by Yu Donghao. It means that the spy only witnessed Yu Donghao disposing of Gongyang Yu, and assumed that uncle Zhong was killed by him as well.

“You are the person rumored to have killed Protector Zhong. Not bad your eyes are full of spirit, you indeed have a talent for cultivating. However, I would rather believe that Protector Zhong was killed by Yu Donghao. It’s not possible for a Houtian to kill a Xiantian! But, similarly, I will have you die here today. How dare you touch members of my Gongyang Clan! Don’t worry, I won’t kill you immediately. I will first let you live in agony before I send you to hell personally.”

Upon hearing his words, Qing Shui understood that this middle-aged man was going to use them as an example. He want to tell the world that whoever dared to touch members of his Gongyang Clan would end up like them, and have their whole clan wiped out!

“Old thing, let me tell you something. Don’t bully someone when he is young. If I somehow survive this, I swear to the Heavens I will root out your entire bloodline.” The sound of Qing Shui’s voice was filled with resolution.

“Don’t bully someone when they are young? Fine, because of this

sentence, I will surely kill you today!”

“That may not be so!” A melodious voice rang out from the clouds. No one bothered to listen to the content of the words, as most were already mesmerized by her musical voice.

Almost everyone turned their heads in the direction of the voice. Far up in the clouds, they could see a white dot flying nearer and nearer before finally stopping at a hover in the air before Qing Shui and Yu Donghao, directly blocking the path of Gongyang Xuanton.

“Wow! Ice Snow Immortal Crane, another Xiantian level beast!” Someone exclaimed in wonder.

This Immortal Crane was about the same size as the Purple-Eyed Falcon, the difference was that it was filled with white feathers, and gave people a sense of beauty instead of terror.

“It is so much prettier when compared to the falcon!” A young girl exclaimed in wonder.

“The Immortal Crane is a 5th-grade demonic beast. It’s cultivation level is two levels higher when compared to the demonic falcon!” A middle-aged man explained.

“You know a lot, uncle, are you a Xiantian cultivator?”

“.....”

“There’s an immortal standing up there!” A child called out!

Qing Shui was long attracted, and even stunned by the beautiful girl. On the snowy white immortal crane, there stood a female cultivator robed in a white-feathered dress.

This girl emitted an indiscernible aura tinged with gentleness. Although her features were veiled, from the incomparably beautiful facial shape, as well as her eyes which were akin to the stars in the skies, was sufficient for people to tell that, this person in front of them, was an absolute beauty. Her long hair was fluttering with the wind, as her ivory jade skin gave off a sense of peerless elegance. Even her feathered dress was unable to conceal the marvel of her perfectly proportioned body lines and figure.

“There’s actually such a goddess in this world, how could other so called beauties be capable of comparing themselves with her!?” Qing Shui sighed as a slight sense of blasphemy arose in his heart.

“How ravishing, is she an immortal that has descended from the nine heavens?”

“What a beauty!”

“Why is she more beautiful when compared to my woman?” A pervy old uncle whispered, as he stared.

“... go to hell!”

The Ice Snow Immortal Crane and the Purple-Eyed Falcon were at a distance of 100m apart.

The Purple-Eyed Falcon frantically flapped it's wings in agitation while the Ice Snow Immortal Crane proudly inclined its head, and unleashed a roar of supremacy.

“Yiye Jiange [1], what's the meaning of this?” Gongyang Xuantong knit his brows as he glared at the girl with unsurpassed beauty standing atop the Ice Snow Crane.

“He is the person who shot the Cloudflame Cylinder, do you still need me to elaborate more?” Yiye Jiange emotionlessly replied, the sound of her words which were filled with an unusual melody, drifted over.

“Do you really think that you can block us with your strength alone?”

[1] Yiye Jiange – A leaf sword song direct translation, (a song about leaves and swords)

AST: Chapter 112 – Goddess as a Master!

“Do you really think that you can block us with your strength alone?”

As the last word from Gongyang Xuantong sentence was shouted out, four elders, all with heads full of white hair appeared. Despite their age, their eyes were flickering with a bright light, as they exuded an air filled with vitality and spirit!

“Hahaha, who said that she’s alone? Am I not here now?” The sound of loud laughter resounded from the distance, as an old man mounted on a two meter tall Purple Liondeer appeared with speed as fast as lightning. The speed of that mount was not much slower compared to the Immortal Crane, or maybe, it was because that Immortal Crane didn’t go all out when it was flying earlier.

“Skysword Immortal!” The four of them exclaimed in shock.

“Sister, that Liondeer, is it very strong?” A little girl inclined her head as she inquired.

“That’s the Purple Liondeer. It’s speed is considered one of the fastest amongst the land based demonic beasts. Aside from flying or going into the sea, travelling over land or even scaling mountains would prove no problem to it!” A busty woman clad in green robes warmly explained to the girl.

“Baili Jingwei!” Although Qing Shui did somewhat anticipate his arrival, he was still immensely astounded!

“It’s my honor that all of you still remember this old man. What? Do you really need me to block you all?” Those kind features of Baili Jingwei were akin to the god of longevity. That smile of his seemed to contain mercy and love, just like an immortal.

“How would we dare. Since respected elder wants to interfere in this matter, we will leave!”

“Everyone, leave!”

The Purple-Eyed Falcon flapped its wings as it flew away, and the four elders lightly nodded their heads towards Baili Jingwei, before going on their way.

“Old man, this young one thanks you!” Qing Shui gratefully spoke. He meant every word, and was not just paying him lip service.

“Haha, Qing Shui, we meet again! Nothing to worry about, it’s just a slight effort on my part.” The kind smile of Baili Jingwei exuded a kind of imposing and impressive air, akin to the majestic mountains.

“Old man, how about coming to our place for a rest first, and let this young one thank you properly. And uh, this lady...” Qing Shui glanced at the peerless beauty that was capable of toppling kingdoms, standing beside Baili Jingwei.

Seeing her at such a close distance would really cause people heart's to shudder as their souls stirred. Especially that pair of beautiful eyes, they were as beautiful as the twinkling stars of the night, and extremely clear, with a certain depth to them, exhibiting calmness and farsight!

“This is my junior sister, Yiye Jiange. Hehe, today it was her who had helped you! Later on you must bring out those black fish which you treated me to earlier to compensate her, and allow her to eat to her heart's content. Don't worry, she will surely compensate you with some benefits in return.” Baili Jingwei laughed as he teased Qing Shui.

“I will definitely prepare a good meal for the both of you!” Qing Shui shyly replied.

“Don't mention it. Later on, I still have a request, you can't reject it later okay.” The melodious voice of Yiye Jiange once again caused those who heard it to be mesmerized.

Qing Shui instinctively nodded his head, “Even if you wanted me to climb up a mountain of blades, or enter a pot of boiling oil to be scalded alive, [1] this young man here wouldn't even knit his brows!”

“Haha, you've agreed to it so fast, don't cry later.”

As Qing Shui invited Yu Donghao and the rest as well, Yu Donghao smiled as he refused. He knew that the Sky Sword Immortal had other intentions, and wished to speak to Qing Shui

alone. Thus, he chose to politely refuse instead.

After exchanging some pleasantries with Baili Jingwei, Yu Donghao and those affiliated with him departed while Qing Shui brought Baili Jingwei and Yiye Jiange to the Qing Clan's medicinal store.

“This is true power. Initially, me and everyone affiliated with me was going to die, but just a mere sentence from the two of them actually made the opponents retreat so easily.” Qing Shui was deeply moved.

“Old man, sorry to trouble you!” On their way, Qing Shui's feelings of gratitude didn't diminish. Although to Baili Jingwei, the matter was settled as easily as speaking a few words, but to Qing Shui, it was a matter of tremendous importance that could have led to his clan's annihilation.

“It's fine. Qing Shui, I've already said that we are fated. You must understand, that I'm happy to be able to help you. When one grows old, their only wish is to help others to accumulate good karma, but naturally I also have my own agenda. After all in this world, there is no hatred nor love without reason. Many things are unreasonable!” Baili Jingwei gazed at the surroundings as he indifferently explained.

After they arrived at the Qing Clan medicinal store, only Qing Yi was remaining there. The others were all forcefully sent back to the Qing Clan village, preparing to flee into the western mountains near the village if all else failed. Qing Yi was stubborn. Since this matter was caused by him, he wanted to face the matter together with Yu Donghao and Yu He, while Qing Yi decided to remain

behind to accompany him.

“Qing Shui!” Seeing that Qing Shui returned safely, Qing Yi ran up and pulled him into her embrace, as tears streaked down her face. These were tears of happiness!

“Mother, it’s fine now, everything is settled. These two, Baili Jingwei and Miss Yiye Jiange, are our saviors! We will have to trouble Mother to cook up a scrumptious feast to thank them.” Qing Shui smiled.

As Qing Yi went to the kitchen, Qing Shui “specially” went to the pond outside as he retrieved 3 black fish and 2 turtles. Initially Qing Shui wanted to cook the meal personally, but Qing Yi wanted him to accompany the guests instead.

“Yup, this is the smell!” When the aromatic smell drifted over, Baili Jingwei closed his eyes as he reveled in it.

“Senior Brother, this smell is indeed not bad!”

“Naturally. This time round you will discover what the word ‘delicious’ truly means, and that there’s still something many times more enjoyable compared to cultivation.”

Upon hearing these words, Qing Shui involuntarily cast a glance at Yiye Jiange. It seems as though this celestial looking beauty was a maniac when it came to cultivation.

The meal was prepared swiftly after, as the dining table was filled with a variety of herbs, the famed black fish, as well as turtle soup. The appetizing smell permeated the entire room, and rousing their appetites.

During the meal, Yiye Jiange finally removed her veil which caused Qingshui to be extremely awestruck!

This was truly what a perfect beauty looked like. What peerless beauty, what a countenance which was akin to radiance, what refined and exquisite bone structure, all of these descriptions were insufficient to describe her beauty!

“Ah if only Wenren Wu-Shuang was sitting beside her, that would truly be a beautiful view.” A thought unconsciously sprung up in Qing Shui’s mind.

Only after Yiye Jiange noticed Qing Shui staring absentmindedly at her, did she discover the clearness of his eyes, filled with an unmasked admiration.

As for the food on the table, Baili Jingwei displayed a natural expression as he sighed, praising the food with every mouthful, while Yiye Jiange ate elegantly, nodding her head with every bite!

Qing Shui gazed at the slightly oily lips of Yiye Jiange. Her lips were red and full, and it seemed to be shaped in a mysterious arc. That arc did not represent disdain, nor happiness, but yet, it was inconceivably beautiful and hard to describe. Her whole set of features belonged to the category of unparalleled beauties who had

the looks to topple kingdoms. It was even more imposing when compared to Ding Bao's exquisite little face, and even had a faint trace of something magical within it.

"Qing Shui, do you still remember that you promised me something earlier?" Yiye Jiange lightly smiled.

"Naturally, I will definitely do what I've promised!" Qing Shui exclaimed. After all in exchange for them solving the problems for him today, Qing Shui was prepared to pay any price, not to mention just merely agreeing to any conditions Yiye Jiange wanted to ask of him.

"I want to accept you as my disciple!" Yiye Jiange slowly explained, as her beautiful eyes stared unblinkingly at Qing Shui.

"Ai!" Baili Jingwei bitterly glanced at Yiye Jiange.

Qing Shui stared mutely at Yiye Jiange, suspecting if his ears had problems, as his eyes were filled with confusion while he stared at the beauty which was capable of toppling kingdoms.

"Well you said it before, that you would promise to do anything. I don't need you to climb up a mountain of blades, or enter into a pot of boiling oil for me. I just want to accept you as my disciple." Yiye Jiange put on her veil again, obscuring her features.

"I can agree to this, but I have a condition..." Qing Shui felt extremely astonished, and didn't know whether to be happy or

depressed.

“If I can be the disciple of such a beautiful expert, it can be considered that I have very good fortune!”

“What condition, tell me directly.” Yiye Jiange casually spoke. Qing Shui felt that listening to her talking was very enjoyable.

“After becoming your disciple, I hope to continue remaining in Hundred Miles City. I will look for you after I’ve settled my matters here. Is that okay?” The clear eyes of Qing Shui looked at Yiye Jiange unblinkingly.

“Of course. I feel that you are incredibly mysterious, which is why I want you as my disciple. Not only that, the status of you being my disciple can be considered an umbrella of protection in the Cang Lang country.” Yiye Jiange lightly smiled as she spoke to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui’s heart trembled slightly as he looked gratefully towards Yiye Jiange.

“Do you need me to kowtow to acknowledge you as my master?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose.

“It’s fine, just offering tea would do. Hehe, Jiange is my smallest junior sister, her future accomplishments know no bounds. Currently, her position is elder of the current sect leader of the Skysword Sect. Because you are Jiange’s only disciple, in the

future, she would would have you helping with the sect matters, and would no longer be alone.” Baili Jingwei joyfully laughed.

Qing Shui hurriedly offered the tea with both his hands as he bowed to Yiye Jiange, “Disciple respectfully offers tea for the old and esteemed Master!”

Yiye Jiange accepted the tea, slowly sipping it as she replied, “You don’t need to say the words old when addressing me... I’m not that old...”

Qing Shui didn’t realize that Yiye Jiange has such a side to her, as he hurriedly replied. “Right, right. Master is so young and beautiful, with looks that could topple a kingdom, unmatched beauty throughout all the generations. Flawless perfection, like an immortal descending from the heavens, as ravishing as a heavenly celestial...”

“Okay enough, I don’t feel any sincerity when I hear your praises.” Yiye Jiange laughed.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose, “The words of this disciple are all true, what a pity that the majority don’t dare to utter these words, but luckily now that you are my Master, I can sincerely praise the old and esteemed you.”

“Still calling me old?!”

Qing Shui, “.....”

“After listening to your many sweet words, no matter what, Master should give you a gift for entering into my tutelage. Hmm, let me think about it.” Yiye Jiange knit her brows as she pondered.

“It’s fine if you are unwilling, I don’t need anything!” Qing Shui upon seeing the heavily furrowed face of Yiye Jiange, could feel his heart melting.

“What, I’m not such a petty person... I’m just trying to think of the most suitable item for you, but currently I’m not carrying a lot of treasures on me, so this is just a gesture.”

“Hehe.”

“This is for you. This is a pendant with mystical effects. Wearing it can increase your defense. When you arrive at the Sky Sword Sect in the future, I will prepare another big gift for you.”

As she spoke, Yiye Jiange removed a silvery-white pendant from her neck which had a precious stone embedded within. The stone was a sky-blue color in the shape of a crescent moon!

[1] climb up a mountain of blades or enter a pot of boiling oil to be scalded alive – chinese saying referring to doing something impossible.

AST: Chapter 113 – Moonstone??

“Moonstone?” Qing Shui exclaimed, wasn’t this gemstone a moonstone? It was just that its appearance was much more beautiful compared to ordinary moonstones. It gives off a sort of dreamy sensation when looked at.

“This name is quite apt, because it really does look like a moon. However, this stone is named Glorious Moonstone!”

Qing Shui didn’t extend his hands, “Master, this should be extremely valuable, you should keep it for yourself. Some other random item would suffice.”

“Since I’ve already offered this to you, just accept it. I’ve worn this pendant for 10 years, and from today onwards, it’s yours!” After Yiye Jiange finished speaking, she stuffed the pendant into Qing Shui’s hands.

As he received the stone, at the moment of contact, he noticed the stone was still warm. Thinking of this pendant that had hung for over 10 years in front of Yiye Jiange’s chest, Qing Shui couldn’t help but to steal a few glances at that incredible bosom of hers.

As he held the Glorious Moonstone, Qing Shui could smell a faint trace of snow lotus fragrance on it. As he put it on and hung in front of his chest, Qing Shui could feel a comfortable and numbing sensation in his heart.

At this moment, Qing Shui felt that he was a little shameless...

“Thank you Master!” Qing Shui exclaimed hurriedly, as though he could somehow feel that the beautiful countenance behind the veil seemed to be turning a little awkward.

“Master, tell me more about matters of the Skysword Sect, as well as some other sects and famous big clans in the world of the nine continents.” Qing Shui happily continued. Not only had his biggest problem been solved, but he even gained a peerless beauty for a master. How could he not be happy.

“Okay, let me tell you more about our Skysword Sect. Skysword Sect was once the biggest sect in the Cang Lang country. Of course right now, in name, we are still the biggest sect, but when it comes to actual strength, it’s hard to say.” Yiye Jiange sighed.

Hearing her sigh, Qing Shui knew that the Skysword Sect had declined. Qing Shui didn’t say anything, as he stayed silent waiting for Yiye Jiange to continue.

Seeing the expression on Qing Shui’s face, Yiye Jiange laughed. Although that laugh was somewhat shallow, the corner of her lips lightly curled.

“Skysword Sect has a history of over 7,000 years. Let’s not mention those reclusive family clans and great sects that have existed for over 10,000 years. In the Cang Lang country, our Skysword Sect is the biggest sect, as well as the power behind the empire.”

Qing Shui also heard similar stories in relation with the stuff Yiye told him, but, Qing Shui was extremely depressed. In the provinces of all the continents in this world, all countries are helmed by the power of the sects and great clans behind them. Usually the person in charge was the strongest, and no matter who was in charge, they had to ensure the security and prosperity of the country they controlled.

“In our Skysword Sect, other than the Sect Master, and my senior brother Baili Jingwei with a status of the Grand Elder, there are 10 other Elders such as myself, and over 100 Protectors, 1,000 Guardians, 10,000 Disciples. Protectors rank below Elders regardless of position or martial prowess. The minimum requirement to be a Protector, is to enter the Xiantian realm. Because of this, in the sect, no matter who it is, as long as they step into the Xiantian realm, they would become a Protector.

Yiye explained the structure of the sect to him.

Qing Shui silently clicked his tongue after he heard that. Just the Skysword Sect alone had over 100 Xiantian cultivators, no wonder it is so powerful. Then again, for a truly powerful sect, it would be strange if they didn't have power on such a grand scale. Also, from the words of Yiye, there seemed to be another power capable of rivaling the Skysword Sect in the Cang Lang country.

“The world outside is vast and fascinating indeed!” Qing Shui sighed.

“Sometimes, things are not that clear. For example in some countries the great clans and powerful sects work together to

maintain the country. The resources and facilities in the country would be evenly split and enjoyed by members of all sides, and territory lines are clearly drawn! When it comes to external enemies, they would all band together in support.”

“Hehe, Qing Shui you must work hard. I hope to see you entering the ranks of Protector soon, and allow this Master of yours to be happy.” Yiye somewhat teasingly said, while Qing Shui almost fainted at her request.

“Master, those Protectors, are they only disciples of the sect who have stepped into the Xiantian realm?”

“Almost all of them are, but there are a few external Xiantian cultivators who want to join our sect. As long as their background is clean, and they have a referral from our sect disciples, they would be welcome to join as a Protector. So you must work hard. Between the rank of Protectors and Elders, there are also 20 Reserve Elders. Those 20 are the 20 strongest amongst the 100 Xiantian level Protectors. Reserve Elder means that if one of the current Elders had no way to do his duties due to a variety of reasons, they would step up and take over!”

“Master, what is your level of power now? Is it convenient to tell me?” Qing Shui asked hopefully.

◦

“Hehe, 4th level of Xiantian. I’m the weakest amongst the 10 Elders, and the loneliest. They all have over 10 disciples, and I only have you. So you must work hard!” Yiye laughed.

Her laughter was filled with an indescribable elegance, as rows of perfect, pearly white teeth could be seen. Qing Shui averted his gaze for fear of blasphemous thoughts arising in his heart.

“Master, Heavenly River City wouldn’t target the Yu and Qing Clan again right?” Qing Shui asked with trepidation. He was afraid of the revenge by Gongyang Xuanton.

“Relax, I will send out an announcement in the Cang Lang Country that you are a disciple of our Skysword Sect. I will also monitor the movements of the Heavenly River City.” Yiye gently replied.

She continued, “I heard that, 100 years ago, a sentence made by the Skysword Sect would never dare be ignored or defied by others. But currently eldest brother’s injuries hold him back... If not for that, our sect’s power would go up by another level.”

Yiye sighed and suddenly looked towards Qing Shui as if she thought of something. “Qing Shui, oh yeah, I almost forgot to ask you. How did you kill that Xiantian cultivator from the Gongyang Clan?” Yiye’s beautiful eyes flickered.

This was also the first time Qing Shui had seen such a big change occur on Yiye’s countenance. That calm face like still water was as if someone tossed a stone into it.

“Why do you think that it was me who killed the Xiantian cultivator, and not grandpa Yu?” Qing Shui asked bewilderedly.

“Intuition!”

These two words of Yiye caused Qing Shui to want to laugh and cry. This goddess, was still a female, and the intuition of a female was always the scariest.

“Using a needle.” Qing Shui took out a 7 inch golden needle which shone with golden light as he answered.

Yiye and Baili Jingwei mutely stared at the golden needle. This small weapon actually killed a Xiantian cultivator? It sounds highly implausible, like a fantasy.

“Are you sure this thing killed the Xiantian cultivator?” Baili Jingwei involuntarily asked.

Qing Shui could only weave another lie and mixed it together with the truth as he answered.

“I’m a doctor, this needle is actually one of my medical tools to cure my patients.” Qing Shui embarrassedly replied.

The two of them “.....”

“Old man, I will help you recover your body to it’s original state.” The already amazed, speechless duo, was even more astounded after they heard that.

Qing Shui loved the changes in expressions of Yiye Jiange. For example, her astounded look now was priceless.

“Initially, I wanted to help grandpa Baili the moment we first met, but I did not have the confidence then. However, now there shouldn’t be any problems.” Qing Shui continue to amaze them.

“You can see the states of my injuries?” Baili Jingwei asked somewhat puzzledly.

“I’m a doctor, of course I can see it. Seeing, combined with guessing and intuition.” Qing Shui now felt that it was difficult for him to say the truth.

Yiye felt as though she was in a dream. A pre-xiantian cultivator could actually see through the injuries of a 8th level Xiantian Cultivator, and saying that he can cure something that many Xiantian level doctors weren’t able to cure.

Yiye stared directly at Qing Shui, and saw how honest he looked. It didn’t seem as though he was lying. “Qing Shui, are you confident in your words?”

Qing Shui bitterly smiled, and added one more sentence which caused them to believe him!

“Actually Grandpa Yu was crippled 10 years ago, and not too long ago he was cured by a mysterious alchemist. There was no mysterious alchemist...”

“Are you saying that you are that mysterious alchemist?”

Qing Shui could finally admire the change in expression of his beautiful Master again!

Maybe it was because Qing Shui's gaze was too obvious, but it provoked Yiye to the point where she cast sidelong glances at him. While Bali Jingwei only felt surprise and joy upon hearing that Qing Shui was the mysterious alchemist.

This could be considered the 3rd time Qing Shui had executed his needle technique, his movements were incomparably smooth and familiarized. Yiye stood seriously by the side as she watched her new disciple administer his needle techniques, feeling extremely complicated in her heart...

Baili Jingwei was only wearing long pants, and although his beard was already white, his skin was still as smooth as a baby. Maybe it was because of the extreme disparity in age, but Yiye didn't avoid looking at the half naked Baili Jingwei!”

The Dantian of Baili Jingwei was contorted into the shape of ‘W’, but it was still in much better shape than Yu Donghao's. After all, the Dantian of Yu Donghao was totally crippled, while Baili Jingwei could still channel Qi through his Dantian, albeit at a extremely limited amount.

Inserting the needle, the primordial flames technique was greatly effective, as it revitalized the damaged energy channels, and slowly

expanded the previously atrophied channels.

Recovering the body and Yuan Qi to its original state, was the speciality of the primordial needle technique. Using the primordial flames to augment the needle technique while taking into consideration the 5 elemental characteristics of the injury, Qing Shui speedily aided the dantian of Baili Jingwei in recovery. He could only help so much, Baili Jingwei would still need to use his Xiantian Qi to aid in his treatment in the future.

After about four hours, aside from using the needle technique to aid in Baili's recovery, Qing Shui also stimulated Baili Jingwei's potential, and increased his own natural rate of recovery!

Feeling the slight changes in his body, the expressions on Baili Jingwei's face was fascinating to behold – shock, immense joy, disbelief! Yiye Jiange had fallen into a deep state of contemplation!

“Mysterious indeed, haha!” Baili Jingwei could feel that internally, his Dantian had already recovered back to its original state. As long as it was nourished by Xiantian Qi for 3 months, he could recover back his original strength.

“Qing Shui, didn't I say that we were fated to meet? You are the benefactor of this old man, I won't be naggy and keep thanking you, after all, we are one family!” Baili Jingwei happily exclaimed, his countenance currently was akin to an immortal.

Baili Jingwei and Yiye stayed in the Qing Clan's medical store for 2 days. In this 2 days, Qing Shui accompanied the beautiful master

on a tour of Hundred Miles City. Through their interactions, Qing Shui didn't have that reserved feeling of disciple and master, as his behaviour and personality got more natural.

“Master, how did you tame your immortal crane?” Qing Shui realized that almost all Xiantian Cultivators had a mount of their own, causing him to be extremely envious.

“Tame? My Immortal Crane followed me out of it's own will. I don't know how to tame demonic beasts.” Yiye Jiange displayed a beautiful smile as she replied.

“It found you by itself, and followed you voluntarily?”

“Yeah, the Immortal Crane can understand the simple speech of humans, but I don't know why it chose to follow me, although I'm not complaining. Events of such good fortune don't occur often.”

“I remember that the <<Manual of Demonic Beasts>> states that Immortal Cranes love pure, clean and saintly people. That's why very little male cultivators are able to tame one. Since the Immortal Crane decided to follow you, it means that you are pure, clean and saintly.” Qing Shui straightforwardly replied with a laugh.

“You only know how to say such sweet words to make your Master happy!” Unsure whether should she be angry or annoyed, Yiye Jiange eventually chose to laugh with Qing Shui.

AST: Chapter 114 – Golden Steel Demonic Boar

The two of them walked onto the main street of Hundred Miles City. This street was extremely crowded, with all sorts of trinkets and curios for sale everywhere. Yiye Jiange distractedly looked around as she slowly ambled on, before lightly asking, “Qing Shui, are you very interested in demonic beasts and mounts?”

“Yeah, but they are just my fantasy. After all, I’m not a beast tamer!” Qing Shui laughed.

“Beast Tamers?” Yiye laughed, as she continued, “Actually, the words, ‘beast tamer’ are just an empty title nowadays. Real beast tamers have not been seen in this world of the nine continents for a very long time. As for the current ‘beast tamers’, they are merely experts who can understand some simple words of the beast language!” Yiye replied, somewhat disdainfully.

“Master, what do you think happened? I’m somewhat puzzled.”

“Now, all those so called ‘beast tamers’, despite being at Xiantian level, are merely fakes. I heard that long ago, real beast tamers could even tame demonic beasts at just the Martial Warrior level. Those were the true beast tamers. Nowadays, where would there be beast tamers that could tame demonic beasts far above their grade? Those fakes can only depend on the Beast Taming Pill to aid them in beast taming.”

“Beast Taming Pill? What’s that?” Qing Shui realized that his

knowledge was truly too limited.

“The Beast Taming Pill is created using materials from a variety of demonic beasts. After consumption, it would increase the user’s aura two times, allowing demonic beasts to be cowed easier, for a period of 20 hours.”

“What? That’s it? There’s no other effects?” Qing Shui asked with suspicion.

“Nope!” Yiye laughed, as she shook her head.

“Beast taming pills should be very expensive right?” After all Qing Shui heard Yiye Jiange saying that the pills were concocted from materials provided by a variety of Demonic Beasts.

“More so than you can imagine. Beast taming pills are one of the most valuable pills that an alchemist can concoct. Even if you had the money, it may not even be for sale. After all, the beast taming pill requires the precious materials from over 20 types of demonic beasts. The inner cores, and inner organs, especially. Of course it is expensive.” Yiye laughed lightly.

“But if that’s the case, doesn’t that mean that anyone can tame beasts?” Qing Shui continued asking.

“Naturally. As you have seen, stronger cultivators almost all have their own mounts. As long as you can defeat a demonic beast, there’s a chance that they might follow you willingly. However,

that chance is extremely miniscule, about 1 in 10,000. So for those with mounts, they have probably attempted beast taming for a few ten thousand times to a few million times.”

Qing Shui felt joy in his heart. 1 in 10,000 times was nothing if he had the will power. Like his Iaido technique, didn't his present accomplishments come about after he had practiced over a few hundred million times?

After their walk, Baili Jingwei and Yiye Jiange departed. Before leaving, Yiye repeatedly reminded Qing Shui not to neglect his cultivation, and to remember to do her proud in the sect in the future.

After this matter, the Yu Clan and the Qing Clan became two of the clans with the most authority in Hundred Miles City. Especially the Qing Clan, it was as if they had originated from the city, and had established their roots there long ago. Qing Shui also became a special existence, with people envying him.

The Yu Clan and the Qing Clan's relations got increasingly closer. This matter, not only did it not destroy the reputation of the Yu He Inn, but business was booming even more compared to before.

“Qing Shui, prepare yourself. It's time to go to out of the City to get herbs, so we will leave tomorrow afternoon!” Qing Yi reminded Qing Shui during his daily morning practice.

Qing Shui remembered that it had already been half a year. Every year, the Qing Clan medicinal store would trade with the Hua Clan

of Heavenly River City twice. “Mother, are we going to the Hua Clan tomorrow?”

“No, we should temporarily avoid going to Heavenly River City. Tomorrow, we are leaving for the Xinan southern mountain range. There are many outposts over there. Every year, they would spend majority of their time hunting and collecting herbs. This time around, we will trade with them, and maybe there might be some rare and valuable herbs found there.” Qing Yi tiptoed to ruffle Qing Shui’s hair. After all Qing Shui had grown taller during this span of time.

Qing Hu and Qing Bei wouldn’t be dissuaded, and demanded to go along. After the matter earlier blew over, they had returned. Accompanying them were many others. Aside from Qing Luo, Qing He and the Grandpa Lin who was the bookkeeper at the Qing Clan’s hidden library, almost everyone else had tagged along together with Qing Hu and Qing Bei, coming to Hundred Miles City.

Qing Shui felt very joyful in his heart. “Such large scale movement, it seems like our Qing Clan is going to expand their businesses over here at Hundred Miles City.”

“Aunty, bring me along! I promise I will be obedient.” Qing Bei tugged Qing Yi’s sleeves as she pouted adorably.

In the end, they brought Qing Hu and Qing Bei along for their journey. In addition to the two drivers, the four of them were seated within a carriage. The beast pulling the carriage was a low grade metallic bull beast. With a height of 3m and a thickness of

2m, it was the favorite type of carriage beast for merchants. Although its speed was slow, it's was sturdy and muscular.

This time around, their journey to and fro would take over one month, and after some deliberation, they had chosen the metallic bull as their choice of steed.

The southern mountain range was in the south-western direction between Hundred Miles City, and the Qing Clan village. Behind the mountain was a vast range filled with countless beasts, aptly named "Beast Gorge". Nobody knew the level of danger within the gorge. In there, aside from the demonic beasts, there were also towering mountain peaks, and deep and dark forests, as well as dangerous swamps. It was said that even cultivators at the Martial Emperor Realm wouldn't dare to easily set foot inside the 'Beast Gorge'. This place was one of the most dangerous places within the continent.

The distance was comparable to the distance between Hundred Miles City and Heavenly River City. However, with the metallic bull as their steed, their speed would be slowed by half. On the way over there, Qing Bei's chatter sounded out unceasingly, while Qing Hu seemed somewhat out of it. We were unsure if he was thinking about Lan Yan`er.

"How far has your cultivation progressed?" The Qing Clan members started this topic of discussion along the journey to ease their boredom.

The roads outside of Hundred Miles City, were all desolate mountain paths. Luckily there weren't too many ferocious or

desolate grade beasts appearing around this area, which was why Qing Yi agreed to allowed Qing Hu and Qing Bei to come along.

Qing Hu rubbed his head as he sheepishly replied, “7th grade of the Martial Warrior Realm, I can’t be compared to Qing Shui.”

“Hehe, don’t be so hasty. Just work hard in your cultivation. I will prepare something good for dinner tonight, guaranteed to leave you satisfied.” Qing Shui’s thoughts shifted to the agility-enhancing fruits which would mature again next year.

“Alright, I know brother Qing Shui would only give me good things. Hehe, now although I’m at the 7th grade of Martial Warrior, most of those in the same generation are not my match. But I don’t know how long it will be until I can break through to the Martial General Realm.”

Qing Shui was happy seeing how earnest Qing Hu was in his cultivation. “Relax, just work hard and stop thinking about it, you will surely be able to reach the Martial General Realm in the future. On the contrary, if you keep forcing yourself, it would be even tougher to break through.”

“Brother Shui, don’t forget me if there is good stuff, hehe.” Qing Bei sat by the side of Qing Shui as she adorably hugged Qing Shui and stated.

“Even if I forget everyone, I can’t forget you. You are the big missy of our Qing Clan!”

Qing Shui's words caused everyone in the carriage to burst into laughter.

Wild Boar Mountains!

A week later, they entered the Wild Boar Mountains. These mountains only had a range of about 100 li, and couldn't be considered too big. However, on the eastern side of it, it led to the Cloudmist Mountains. Fog and mist covered the Cloudmist Mountains all year round. Visibility was always extremely bad, and one could basically only see things three feet in front of them.

Wild Boar Mountains were filled with countless herds of boar-types beasts. When Qing Shui noticed the fearful numbers, he immediately abolished his earlier thoughts of underestimating the boars.

Matured boards were about 2-3m tall, and were immensely muscular. Their tusks were about 50cm long, and shone with a glint of cold light. Their size was double compared to the boars of Qing Shui's previous world. A reddish tinge akin to bloodlust could be seen from their eyes, causing Qing Shui to suspect they really were mere wild boars.

Herds could be seen everywhere. In a small herd, there were about 20-30 boars within, and within a big herd, there were about several hundred boars. An attack by a herd of several hundred boars, maybe only a cultivator at the Xiantian level would be able

to resist it.

Normally, for carriages that traverse this path, they would have to be mindful of attacks from wild tigers and wolf herds. Unless they were cultivators, most people wouldn't choose to travel this area.

Qing Yi chose this route because she had prepared some Tiger Skeletal Powder. As long as the powder was sprinkled onto the carriage, the wild boars wouldn't dare to come close.

On their way, everything was peaceful. Qing Shui could see the activities of the wild boars. Their appetite was humongous, and it seemed as though they could eat anything. Not only that, their growth rate was fast as well, hence there would always be some cultivators trying their luck to hunt the wild boars.

Suddenly, in the distance, Qing Shui could see the wild boars frenziedly rampaging around before dashing in every direction in a panic. It seemed as though they were fleeing for their lives.

“Could there be a high level demonic beast?” Qing Shui was filled with trepidation.

“Aunty, what's happening?” Seeing the herds of wild boars frenziedly fleeing, Qing Bei asked in a puzzled tone.

“Hmm, maybe there's a ferocious beast that appeared! It's okay, at the most in this area there would only be high level ferocious

grade beasts.” Qing Yi soothed Qing Bei.

After the herd of boars dispersed, the troublemaker appeared. After Qing Shui and the rest saw it, an unbelievable expression appeared on their faces.

In front of them was a golden-colored, metallic demonic boar. Looks wise, it was somewhat similar to the wild boars, but it did not have the tusks, and the ferocious glint of the wild boars in its eyes. It even looked somewhat stupid.

The golden-colored boar looked to be about 1m wide in size. When compared to a mature boar it looked extremely tiny and somewhat adorable, but its movements were incomparably nimble and agile.

“Golden Steel Demonic Boar!” A bright light flickered in Qing Shui’s eyes!

AST: Chapter 115 – 4th Layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique

“Golden Steel Demonic Boar!” Qing Shui’s eyes lit up!

Qing Shui looked towards his mother, and saw surprise and panic in her eyes. Qing Shui guessed that his mother had also recognized this beast as the Golden Steel Demonic Boar. The reason that Qing Shui could recognize it was because he had once come across the Golden Steel Demonic Boar in the <>. The last few pages introduced the different types of mutated beasts.

Mutated beasts generally mutated from demonic beasts, desolate beasts, ferocious beasts, or even wild beasts! Mutated beasts were very unique, but they were really precious and overwhelmingly powerful. Qing Shui could clearly recall the description of the Golden Steel Demonic Boar, as it was listed first in the section covering mutated beasts in the <>.

The Golden Steel Demonic Boar was the mutated version of the wild boar, which had gone through mutation after eating certain special fruits or unique rocks, or even possibly after absorbing the Qi of the Heaven and Earth.

The <> wrote that the Golden Steel Demonic Boar was strong as refined steel, and that even a 1st-level Xiantian cultivator would not be able to inflict the slightest harm to it. It had immense strength and teeth which could tear off everything, even to the extent of crumbling tough wrought iron to bits. Its movements were like the wind, fast and nimble, and it was unknown just how much strength it actually possessed!

To be frank, Qing Shui was very worried. It would be very bad if this “Golden Boar” were to go crazy. Qing Yi’s face had long since paled. After all, the opponent was so strong that it was perverse, and it was still a hundred meters away from them.

Qing Shui saw that pair of eyes of the “Golden Boar” which were slightly big, cute and filled with hints of intelligence. Qing Shui was well aware that mutated beasts tended to have intelligence, as their whole body were full of treasures and their cores were even more precious than that of demonic beasts. It was too bad that Qing Shui was only thinking about escaping then.

“Mother, let’s get off the carriage and you’ll lead them to back off. It’s already set its sights on us, so I will find a way to draw it away.” Qing Shui leapt off the carriage as he urged.

“Qing Shui, you bring them away, Mother will go draw its attention!” Qing Yi descended from the carriage with Qing Hu and Qing Bei, as she quickly stated with an air of indifference.

“This time around, we will definitely not leave. We will deal with it together.” Qing Bei pouted as she said in anger.

Qing Hu did not say anything, but the look in his eyes showed that he would definitely not leave.

“Alright, you guys are making it sound as if it’s a life or death situation. When have I ever done anything that I have no confidence in? Mother, trust me, bring them and hide. I’ll be back

in a while.” Qing Shui said with ease.

Qing Yi looked at Qing Shui in doubt as she shook her head. This time around, she insisted on not believing in Qing Shui.

“I still have a Clear Wind Fruit. You should be assured now!” Qing Shui quickly took out and raised the only Clear Wind Fruit he had on him before eating it quickly. He quickly dashed out under Qing Yi’s looks of surprise as he concurrently turned to urge her to bring them away.

Qing Yi felt helpless. Now that things had come to this, she could only bring Qing Hu, Qing Bei, as well as the two drivers to retreat quickly!

The summer afternoon was still scorching, without a trace of wind. When Qing Shui was about fifty meters away from the golden boar, he quickly turned sideways to the left and dashed forth.

The “Golden Boar” looked at Qing Shui as its big eyes lit up. It might have thought that Qing Shui was challenging it as it pounced towards Qing Shui suddenly, at the speed of lightning.

“Damn, its speed is so fast?” Even under the effects of the Agility-Enhancing Fruit, Qing Shui was still slower than the golden boar by a lot.

However, after the Ghostly Steps had evolved into the Free Spirit

Steps, the nimble movements with which he could dodge with had turned increasingly profound and mysterious. With this, Qing Shui kept changing his directions non-stop as he dashed towards the deeper part of the Wild Boar Mountains.

It would be a lie to say that he was not afraid. Amidst the scorching summer sun, while Qing Shui was covered in sweat, he was covered in cold sweat. The golden boar was chasing very close behind Qing Shui, and the distance between them was not even two meters.

Qing Shui had no choice but suffer in silence as he had to keep close attention to the golden boar's movements constantly. Qing Shui was aware that there were cores in demonic beasts, and that they can use their cores to augment their attacks, and spew out "Core Qi" that was similar to the Qi of a Xiantian cultivator. However, the impact would be much stronger than that of the regular Qi of a Xiantian cultivator.

This mutated beast, "Golden Steel Demonic Boar", had an inner core which was said to be even more powerful than a demonic core. Qing Shui's worry was that this "Golden Boar" would have some kind of hidden trump card which would land him in big trouble, or even to die without leaving a trace.

Qing Shui did not dare to let it charge straight at him. Changing directions with each step, dodging around, even if the "Golden Boar" were to suddenly attack with the strength summoned by its inner core, he would be able to avoid getting hit in his vitals.

After around 15 minutes Qing Shui gathered all of his focus, as he

and the beast went into the deeper parts of the Wild Boar Mountains at an incredible speed.

“The Agility-Enhancing Fruit is only able to last for 15 minutes. Once I lose its effect, this golden boar will be able to catch up to me easily. Once the effect wears off, my strength will also take a plunge, and the chances that I will be killed will increase by 30%.”

After another desperate dodge from the sudden pounce of the golden boar, Qing Shui suddenly unleashed a strike towards its head!

From the side!

Boom!

Qing Shui garnered all his strength into that punch as he smashed his fist into the head of the “Golden Boar”. A loud sound exploded as if he had hit against a metal plank! Qing Shui’s arm trembled and turned numb from the impact.

After the golden boar received such a heavy attack, the imaginary scene where it was sent flying did not appear. Although Qing Shui had known from the <> that it was hard for Xiantian cultivators to inflict any harm on it, it was still unbelievable when he had experienced it in person.

Qing Shui’s punch had an immense strength of over twenty thousand jin while this demonic boar beast was only about a meter

in size. Moreover, the punch had landed on its head.

Looking at this golden boar, forget about cracking its skull, the punch had not even changed its direction. Qing Shui felt a sense of utter defeat. It was too big a blow.

It seemed like the punch had infuriated the golden boar instead. It grunted in fury, and the speed at which it pounced towards Qing Shui became even faster. Its legs moved towards Qing Shui at an unbelievable speed.

“Sh*t!” The movements of the boar was very mysterious, as if it had suddenly appeared in front of him in an instant. Qing Shui felt that there was no way that he could escape.

Another deep wound appeared on his previously injured shoulders as fresh blood gushed out. It was too bad that Qing Shui was too busy to care about it, as he tried to dodge while looking for the weak point of the golden boar.

In just a moment of carelessness, he received another wound at his left rib. Three of his ribs were broken, and Qing Shui was in so much pain that he gasped. His whole body had long been drenched with sweat.

There were a few times when Qing Shui had wanted to attack the eyes of the golden boar, as he discovered that the eyes were its only weakness. It was just too bad that even with the agility from his Solitary Rapid Fist, he would still not be able to accomplish it. Qing Shui sighed in his heart, feeling regret that he did not have any

hidden weapons with him, and that he would probably lose his life this time.

Although Qing Shui's body had strong recovery abilities, the wounds on his body were increasing at an alarming rate. However, although the wounds on his body were increasing, the Ancient Strengthening Technique was also channeling faster and faster.

The effects of the Agility-Enhancing Fruit had disappeared. This was also the reason why the wounds on Qing Shui were increasing at a faster rate. Qing Shui was feeling helpless, and could even feel that death was upon him.

Using his reflexes he dodged and fended off the attacks. Were it not that Qing Shui's body was strong, he would have probably already fainted. But, no matter how strong he was, he had also reached his limits.

Scene after scene flashed past Qing Shui's eyes. When his mother had carried him and secretly cried when he was young while telling him stories of the Yan Clan, thinking that he wouldn't understand; thinking of his mother's suffering and expectations of him; of the times when he was laughed at and called a failure by the people from the Qing Village; and later...when he defeated Situ Bufan; when he went through the coming of age ceremony; when he entered Hundred Miles City; when he first met Shi Qingzhuang and eventually had s*x with her; when he met Wenren Wushuang; when he killed a Xiantian cultivator; and when he gained a strong master who was a peerless beauty...

The scenes flashed again, showing him the time when his body

had changed when he started to pick up martial arts, picking up the Ancient Strengthening Technique; experiencing epiphany and impurities cleansing; leveling; unexpectedly attaining the Yin-Yang Pendant; entering the realm of the Violet Jade Immortal; figuring out alchemy; as well as learning the Ancient Technique: Flames of Yin-Yang and the Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique.....

Thereafter it was his attempts at alchemy; creating the Golden Sore Ointment; treating Yu Donghao with the amazing Primal Chaotic Divine Needle Technique; the charming scene when he was treating Wenren Wushuang; when he treated Baili Jingwei... the mere thoughts of these warmed his heart...

“I have already survived so many obstacles, and there is a glorious future awaiting me. I can’t accept this, I can’t accept this!” Qing Shui struggled as a strong aura and potential exploded from his body like never before.

The Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique had been frantically circulating without any notice. It was as if it was spurred on by an irresistible force, akin to someone using their finger to poke a hole through the previous barrier; it was unstoppable. It was as if all the conditions had fallen into place. After his Qi circulated for 48 cycles, it did not show any signs of stopping, and continued to circulate another cycle.

49 cycles of circulated Qi !

In that instant, Qingshui felt a gush of the pure and boundless strength of Heaven and Earth flowing into his Baihui acupoint,

rendering his body numb. It was as if countless information was being transmitted to his head, causing him to have a splitting headache. The Baihui acupoint was a governing meridian in the human body, as well as the Danzhong acupoint of the ren meridian. They were two of the most mysterious and widest acupoint channels in the human body. Not only that, but these 2 acupoints were so critical, that they were referred to as “Death Acupoints”

“I’ve broken through, broken through the obstacle which has troubled me for seven years!”

“I’ve entered 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique!”

Qing Shui felt as if he was dreaming. It was his last thought before he lost consciousness.